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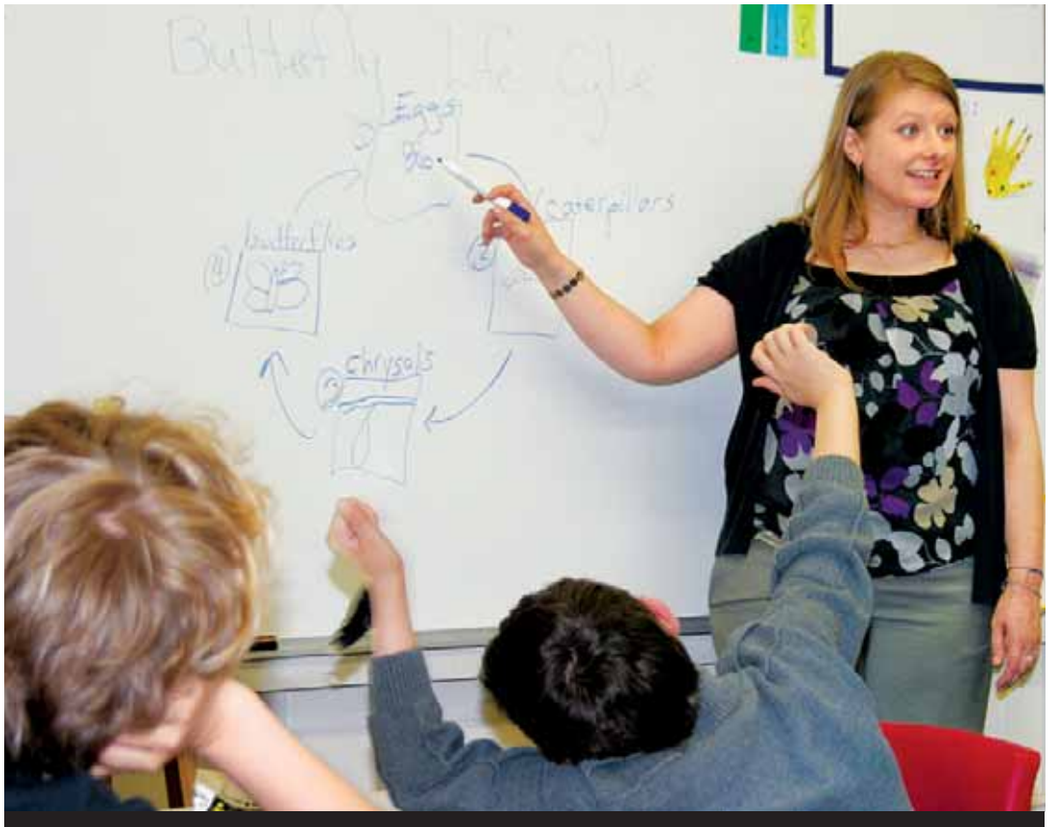
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START OF ANOTHER GOLDEN BOOT?

DUNBRACK STRIKER LEANNE HUCK LEADS HER TEAM INTO A NEW PREMIERSHIP SEASON PAGE 32



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JOB LOSSES WORRY TEACHERS

PAGE 4

Grade 2 teacher Meaghan McGuire of Oxford School teaches her class on Thursday morning, one day after the Halifax Regional School Board announced more than 150 classroom teaching positions were being cut in the 2012-13 school year. The province defended its decision Thursday to cut funding in education, which the Halifax Regional School Board says is the main reason for the job losses. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

Ridership in reverse

Metro Transit. Drop in revenue since strike



JENNIFER TAPLIN
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As the numbers show, the transit strike did have an impact on ridership.

April reports show revenue is down by four per cent in the first full month of transit service since the strike.

The six-week strike ended March 13, when the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 508 and Halifax regional council both voted to accept a deal. Customers were given free transit for the rest of March.

On Thursday, Metro News learned revenues were down by $111,200 in April compared to the same month last year. This doesn't include income from Metro Link and MetroX, which wasn't available.

Most of the hit came from conventional transit, which decreased $107,900, while community transit dropped by $7,000.

"It's about exactly what we expected," said Tiffany Chase, Metro Transit spokeswoman. "We had said during the strike we would anticipate a four per cent reduction in revenue and that's exactly where it's at for the month of April."

Ken Wilson, president of ATU Local 508, said typically transit loses five to 10 per cent ridership after a strike. "So that's in the ballpark," he said.

But Wilson said the numbers don't sound right because drivers aren't reporting any lighter bus loads. Wilson suspects it could be people using February tickets or transfers to ride the bus for an hour and a half.

The loss will be absorbed into the budget, but Metro Transit does service adjustments four times a year with one coming this month.

"What Metro Transit will do is monitor incoming revenue closely, and there might be other areas where budgets can be adjusted so that we maintain the level of service council agreed to," Chase said.

The numbers weren't all bad

$1,500

Ferry fares went up by $1,500 while Access-A-Bus went up by $2,200 compared to April, 2011.

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Drug offences

Halifax courts full of drug cases: Crown lawyer

Jeff Moors, a Halifax federal Crown attorney, said he's noticed a bump in drug offences pouring through the courts.

"I would say over the past three years I've noticed an increase," he said on Thursday, adding that when it comes to drug offences there are many repeat offenders.

The bulk of charges seem to be for possession, but there are still many trafficking offences, Moors said. Many of the possession charges are dealt with through non-judicial means and often don't take a lot of court time.

Coun. Steve Streatch, a member of the Halifax police commission, said getting at the root causes of crime and attacking the drug trade will make a big difference in the crime rate.

"I'm pleased we are making progress in certain areas, but it's obvious to me we need to work harder and dig a little deeper in some other areas, especially the drug offences," Streatch said.

"It disappoints me, but doesn't surprise me that the drug offences are up but it is consistent with what Chief (Frank) Beazley has been talking to the commission about."

JENNIFER TAPLIN/METRO

Quoted

"It's obvious to me we need to work harder and dig a little deeper in some other areas, especially the drug offences."

Coun. Steve Streatch, on getting at the root causes of crime



Investigators search the Albro-Lake home of Dartmouth's James Alexander (Sandy) Lyle, whose body was found on the side of Montague Road in Montague Gold Mines on Feb. 19. Police say the murdered man had links to the Hells Angels and had a history of drug dealing dating back to 1991. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

Violent crime down, but drug charges up in HRM

Stats. There were 103 more drug offences in the first quarter of 2012 compared to the same period last year



JENNIFER TAPLIN
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HRM's first-quarter crime stats tell an interesting story: total Criminal Code offences are down seven per cent, but drug offences are up a startling 37 per cent.

The statistics from the first quarter of 2012 compared to the first quarter of 2011 will be discussed at Monday's Halifax police commission meeting.

Many offences are down including homicides — down by three per cent — and violent crime in general is down 10 per cent. Robberies, attempted murders, assaults, prostitution — all down.

But propping up the numbers: failure to appear and bail violations are up by 70 per cent. Theft over $5,000 is up 113 per cent, and theft under $5,000 is up 26 per cent (largely due to thefts from motor vehicles).

Reorganizing the drug unit last fall and going after mid-level drug dealers seems to have paid off for Halifax police.

"The increase in drug offences (in the first-quarter crime statistics) would be directly related to an increase in enforcement," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter.

"This comes from the decision we made last year to go after drug dealers or the people involved in the drug subculture, but specifically mid-level drug dealers we believe are connected with the violence."

Halifax police reworked the drug unit to create a guns-and-drugs team specifically targeting middle management of the local drug trade. Palmeter said investigators believe it's those offenders who are responsible for the number of shootings around HRM.

"It's our belief that violence and drugs are connected, so if you can disrupt the activity of the people involved in the drug subculture, that should have a positive impact on the violence level in the HRM," Palmeter said.

There are also other police units dealing with street-level drug crime.

Property crimes

50%

Property crimes account for half of Criminal Code offences, while crimes against people account for 14 per cent.

Q1 crime stats

- **Stolen motor vehicles:** Down 34 per cent
- **Break-and-enters:** Down 46 per cent
- **Assaults:** Down nearly 10 per cent
- **Robbery:** Down five per cent

1 NEWS

On the web

Robinson Crusoe: 2012

Modern-day homestead or survival game? An Anchorage, Alaska, oil employee/filmmaker is heading to a nearly deserted island for one year with nothing but his dog as a sidekick. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

The jury's out on whether it's breastfeeding at its best or parenting at its worst. Either way, it's an image that has tongues wagging. A controversial Time magazine cover photo is going viral, and people across the globe, Canadians included, are voicing their opinions. Scan the code for the story.



Teacher cuts restore balance, education minister contends

Layoffs. Halifax school board axing 152 classroom teaching positions, with provincial cuts shouldering much of the blame



ALEX BOUTILIER
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Education Minister Ramona Jennex defended her government's education cuts on Thursday, saying the reduction in teaching positions is meant to "rebalance" the system.

Jennex again pointed to declining enrolment as justification for tightening school-board budgets.

"This is a case of where we are rebalancing a system," Jennex told reporters. "We're in the position of looking at making sure that our resources match the number of students in our system."

Jennex was responding to the Halifax Regional School Board's decision to cut 152 teaching positions as they attempt to balance their books. Board chair Irvine Carvery said Wednesday that 25 of those positions were directly related to declining enrolment.

When asked about those numbers, Jennex took a longer view.

"That's based on the declining enrolment in this year. I'm talking about over a three-year average, (HRSB's) declining enrolment was 4.2 (per cent)," she said. "We are rebalancing a system that was, because of declining enrolments, a little bit lopsided."

Carvery said while HRM schools should be able to manage under the current situation, further cuts to school-board budgets would most likely damage student outcomes.

When asked if she could commit to no further cuts to education, Jennex said she looks forward to working with school boards on their next budget.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil disputed Jennex's claim the cuts will "rebalance" the system.

"The funding formula takes into account declining enrolment," said McNeil. "What you're seeing on top of that, though ... is we're losing twice as many teachers based on the fact of cuts to funding as opposed to the declining enrolment aspect that the minister keeps hiding behind."

Repercussions

"Those are ongoing discussions that I look forward to having with the boards."

Education Minister Ramona Jennex on the possibility of further cuts to education

N.S. Teacher's Union

Cuts add more strain, says Allen

Nova Scotia Teacher's Union president Alexis Allen called the cuts to teaching staff at the Halifax Regional School Board "devastating."

"We've always had declining enrolment, and we've always adjusted," Allen said Thursday.

"(But) this year we're up to 393 (teaching positions cut for the province), and we still have one board to report. And it's not even a third that's because of declining enrolments."

Allen said that while no permanent or probationary teachers will be cut, failing to replace retiring teachers means more strain on the system. **ALEX BOUTILIER/METRO**



Education Minister Ramona Jennex is shown talking to reporters in this file photo. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Cuts will have ripple effect on schooling: Educator

The announcement the Halifax Regional School Board will be cutting over 150 teaching jobs next year is leaving many local educators worried.

Fewer teachers will result in lower-quality education, said Jamie Falcone, head of the English department at Prince Andrew High School.

"It's going to drastically affect every aspect of schooling," he said Thursday, adding there has already been discussion at Prince Andrew about what courses need to be dropped. Falcone said electives like tech-ed, art, or specific skills programs will likely be the first to go.

"These are the courses that quite often will stop the kids that aren't necessarily the most academic students from dropping out," Falcone said.

Part of the school board's plan includes cutting term jobs, as well as not hiring any recent education graduates. Falcone said the lack of young, energetic teachers is necessary if a school wants to thrive.

One of those young teachers, 23-year-old Emma Kozik of Halifax, said the school board cuts are "disheartening."

Morale

"It's tough, and everyone I work with, they're coming in (to work) down. It's hard."

Halifax teacher Emma Kozik, on Wednesday's news of job losses

Kozik graduated with her education degree from the University of New Brunswick last year and since January has been filling in for a maternity leave position for a Grade 2 class at Harbourview Elementary.

"You kind of wonder if you made the right decision in your career choice," Kozik said. "It's going to be a long haul in trying to find some work."

The province says the 0.9 per cent drop in funding was done due to declining enrolment, but Falcone said the decline isn't enough to warrant losing teachers.

HALEY RYAN/FOR METRO/ WITH FILES FROM PHILIP CROUCHER

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Party crashers. Masked men rob gathering in apartment

Police say three men wearing masks forced their way into a Halifax apartment early Thursday and robbed several people.

Halifax Regional Police say they were called at 1 a.m. to an apartment in the 5400 block of Victoria Road. Police say a group of people were inside for a gathering when the intruders broke in and robbed them of cash, cellphones, jewelry and watches.

One of the suspects had a gun, police say.

Were victims targeted?

- Police don't believe the robbery was a random act.

The men are described as black and in their late teens or early 20s, and all three were wearing dark clothes.

One of the robbery victims was taken to hospital and treated for minor injuries.

METRO

HEAT list

Tip leads to arrest of wanted man

One down, eight to go. A man has already been arrested two days after the latest high-risk enforcement action team (HEAT) list was released by Halifax Regional Police.

The most recent HEAT list, issued Tuesday, has nine people on it wanted for outstanding warrants.

At 12:30 a.m. Thursday, police were tipped off by "information from the public."

They walked into a bar in downtown Halifax and arrested Dustin Richard Kenneth McCormack, 31. He was due in Halifax provincial court on Thursday.

McCormack was wanted for a breach of a conditional sentence. The HEAT list can be found at halifax.ca/police/HeatList.

METRO

Facing the music. Elderly man arrested for stealing banjo

Halifax police have arrested a 77-year-old man in connection with the theft of a $6,000 banjo nearly five years ago.

The RCMP received a report in November 2007 of a break and enter at a home in Head Chezzetcook, where they say a Stelling Red Fox banjo worth about $6,000 was stolen.

Officers used a search warrant on May 1 of this year to search a home in the same area, where they found the banjo, a computer and a smartphone.

On Tuesday, police arrested the 77-year-old man on charges of break and enter, theft and possession of stolen property for the purpose of trafficking. He has been released from custody and is scheduled to appear in Dartmouth provincial court on June 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

People know what happened in killing of Tanya Brooks: Police

Public remembrance. Commemorative walk will honour woman found murdered three years ago outside north-end school



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A sombre walk will wind through downtown Halifax on Friday as family, friends, and members of the Mi'kmaq community commemorate the third anniversary of the murder of 35-year-old Tanya Brooks.

It's also a march to speak out against violence to aboriginal women. It will start at the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre on Gottingen Street at 10 a.m.

On May 11, 2009, Brooks's body was discovered in a trench near St. Patrick's-Alexandra School. Police know her movements up until 9 p.m. the day before but need tips from the public to fill in the blanks.

"I spoke to the investigator today and we're still facing the same problem: There are people out there that know what happened to her and they haven't come forward," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Brian Palmeter. "We continue to work this from many different angles and what we're trying to do is gather the evidence we require."

Investigators believe that Brooks knew who killed her. Anyone with information is asked to call the integrated major-crime unit at 490-5333 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at crimestoppers.ns.ca.



Investigators along the side of St. Patrick's-Alexandra School on May 11, 2009, when the body of Tanya Brooks was found. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX FILE PHOTO

Reward

$150,000

is being offered, under the province's Rewards for Major Unsolved Crimes Program, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for killing Tanya Brooks.



Tanya Brooks CONTRIBUTED



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HIAA. Revenues rise at Halifax airport

The Halifax International Airport Authority raked in $10.9 million more in revenues in 2011 compared to the year before.

At its annual public meeting Thursday, HIAA reported $77.9 million in total revenues, up from $67 million in 2010. Of that, the authority made $51.1 million in operating revenue and $26.8 million in airport improvement fees. Total expenses came in at $74.4 million.

Passenger traffic at Halifax Stanfield International Airport increased by 2.5 per cent over 2010, coming in at just under 3.6 million for a new record. Cargo traffic also increased over the previous year to 29,263 metric tonnes — up 2.8 per cent.

"In 2011, we had our busiest year for passenger traffic, increased our cargo activity, completed several capital improvement projects, and delivered a positive bottom line," said HIAA president Tom Ruth in a release. METRO

By the numbers

$1.25B

The amount Halifax Stanfield International Airport is worth to the provincial economy each year.

Sinking ship

Two men take to dinghy off Nova Scotia coast

Two men who abandoned their sailboat and rowed a dinghy to an island off the coast of Nova Scotia were rescued late Wednesday by a passing lobster boat.

RCMP say the two Canadian men were approaching Shelburne harbour when their nine-metre vessel started taking on water.

The Mounties say the pair landed their dinghy on Grey Island at the mouth of the harbour. They were rescued after they fired off a flare.

The men were later taken to nearby Gunning Cove, where police interviewed them. Their aborted voyage to P.E.I. started May 5 in the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salaries for top execs at Emera and Nova Scotia Power increase

Criticism. News comes in same week Nova Scotia Power is requesting three per cent rate hike in both 2013 and 2014



Chris Huskilson, CEO of Emera, the parent company of Nova Scotia Power, is shown in Halifax on Monday, Nov. 21, 2005. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top power company executives in Nova Scotia saw big raises in 2011, prompting scathing criticism from opposition politicians in the provincial legislature Thursday.

Newly released documents show the head of Emera, the parent company of Nova Scotia Power, made over $122,000 more in base salary in 2011 than he did the year before.

The private company's website shows president and CEO Chris Huskilson earned $747,115 in salary last year.

But once share options and pension contributions are added, Huskilson's total compensation climbed to $2.99 million last year, slightly up from $2.96 million in 2010.

Emera executive vice-president Nancy Tower took home $1.4 million in total compensation last year, compared to just over $1 million in 2010.

Rob Bennett, president and CEO of Nova Scotia Power, saw his total compensation package rise to $1.15 million last year, up from $934,212 the previous year.

Emera spokeswoman Sasha Irving said the company would not be commenting on the pay packages.

However, the documents say Huskilson's total compensation package was reviewed in relation to "comparable industry counterparts."

They also say Huskilson's base salary increased due to his "superior performance during his tenure."

In Bennett's case, the documents state that Nova Scotia Power delivered increases in earnings year over year under his leadership "contributing $123.5 million to consolidated net income for the year ended Dec. 31, 2011, compared to $119.2 million in 2010."

The pay hikes drew heavy criticism from opposition politicians at the legislature.

Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said the salary increases are "absolutely offensive" in the face of power-rate increase applications that the public is being asked to absorb.

Progressive Conservative Leader Jamie Baillie called the salary increases "extremely frustrating." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Darrell Dexter

Premier Darrell Dexter shied away from criticizing the increases outright, but pointed out that the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board is free to review the salaries as part of any rate application by Nova Scotia Power.

"I think it's important that the administrative costs be kept down and be as reasonable as possible," he said.



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Boston Air + 3 Nights was $607 now $534 + taxes & fees $113
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Annual fundraiser

Run for brain tumour research

Get out your running shoes for the 30th anniversary of Canada's Brain Tumour Foundation.

The Fairbanks Centre in Dartmouth's Shubie Park will host the foundation's annual fundraiser on Saturday morning. **METRO**

Suspect sought

Police probe bank robbery

Police in Cape Breton are investigating a bank robbery in Sydney River.

Regional police say a man entered the CIBC branch on Keltic Drive Wednesday and made off with an undisclosed sum. The robbery happened around 2 p.m. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Concerns

Action urged on rising power costs

The Truro and District Chamber of Commerce is calling on Nova Scotia politicians to put aside their differences and come up with a concrete solution to the increasing cost of electricity.

"On the heels of a report that shows Nova Scotians are paying the highest electricity rates in the country is news that Nova Scotia Power is looking for more increases in 2013 and 2014," chamber president Don Hay said in a release. "This has to stop. It is having severe implications on Nova Scotia's ability to remain competitive on the cross-country and global markets."

Nova Scotia Power Inc. announced Tuesday it is seeking a three per cent increase in rates in each of the next two years. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**



Tufts Cove power plant
RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Guilty verdict

Man convicted in shooting deaths

A former East Mountain man has been found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder.

Leslie Douglas Greenwood, 42, was sentenced in the 2000 shooting deaths of Barry Kirk Mersereau and his wife, Nancy Paula Christensen. **TRURO DAILY NEWS**

NDP vote down HST add-on

Financial Measures Act. Liberal amendment would have triggered election in case of broken HST promise

Quoted

"That's not speculation; that's going to be the law."

Premier Darrell Dexter on NDP's promise to cut HST in 2014



ALEX BOUTILIER
alex.boutilier@metronews.ca

To nobody's surprise, the governing NDP voted down an opposition amendment Thursday that would have triggered an election if the government went back on a promise to reduce the HST in 2014.

But Premier Darrell Dexter said there was no need for the amendment — the promise will be law.

The opposition Liberals brought forward the amendment to the Financial Measures Act on Thursday, which would have automatically triggered a general election if the NDP didn't cut the provincial sales tax by one percentage point in 2014, as promised.

"This government, this premier, has a history of telling Nova Scotians one thing prior to them voting and doing something very different after they vote," said Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil.

"We wanted to put some assurances that they wouldn't be able to change their mind."

Dexter accused the Grits of playing politics. "I'm not going to waste my time speculating what might happen in the next term of our government," Dexter told reporters.

Somewhat confusingly, McNeil wouldn't commit to lowering the HST himself should the Liberals form the 62nd government. McNeil said the commitment was the NDP's, and the Liberals would undertake a comprehensive tax review before deciding.

When asked when that decision will be made, McNeil said it's up to the government to call the election. They are expected to do so in 2013.



Leaving their mark for NSCAD's Artist for a Day

Aelyn Murphy and her younger brother spray-paint Thursday on an outdoor art piece by Nova Scotia College of Art and Design student Teto Elsiddique, which will be set up at Sands at Salter near Bishop's Landing on Saturday as part of the school's inaugural Artist for a Day event. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the public is welcome to come down and see the work being done by NSCAD students.

HALEY RYAN/FOR METRO

Open City. Locals encouraged to try something new

About 100 Halifax businesses will have their doors wide open this weekend for a unique event.

Open City, organized by the I Love Local HFX group, is about great deals, free stuff, demonstrations, free parking and new experiences for the locals.

"We want you to get out of your comfort zone, to try something new and to learn more about this great city of ours, and then we want you to share what you find. Tweet it, post it to Facebook, tell your friends and family who are living abroad to come visit," wrote organizers on the site ilovelocalhfx.ca. **METRO**

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Hockey. MacLean takes flack for 9-11 comment

For once, Don Cherry isn't in the hot seat over what he said on Hockey Night In Canada.

Instead it's his longtime on-air companion Ron MacLean, who sparked controversy when he compared players to 9-11 first responders prior to Wednesday's playoff game between New York and Washington.

At the start of the broadcast, MacLean notes that the two cities were united by the tragedy of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

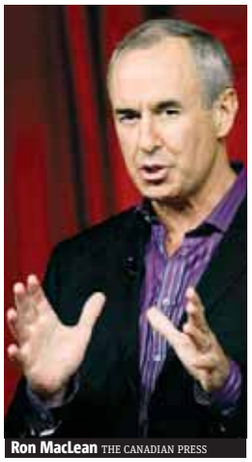
He says it is "crazy to compare what the emergency responders did during that time, but a spirit has to start somewhere."

He then goes on to say you "can't help but be struck by the players and the way they've played these games.

"They are like police officers, they are like firefighters. You can't fight fire with ego. The pain these men have faced, the price they keep on paying, the hearts they keep on lifting."

MacLean and the CBC issued a statement Thursday to "clarify" the comments, which were rebuked by columnists on both sides of the border and scorned on Twitter.

But his statement failed to soothe some on the social-networking website, who noted he opted to explain rather than back down from the comparison.



Ron MacLean THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Ron Maclean decides to defend instead of back off his ... ridiculous hyperbole. A stupid, disrespectful comparison but not malicious," tweeted Jason Pachkowski of Regina.

While he didn't retract the comments in the statement, he did elaborate on his thought process. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judge deems crucial new evidence inadmissible in Michael Rafferty trial

London. Jury sequestered in the trial of 8-year-old Tori Stafford's alleged murderer as laptop evidence comes to light

A laptop computer belonging to the man accused of kidnapping, sexually assaulting and killing Victoria Stafford was used to search online for "real underage rape" and "nude preteen" not long before the eight-year-old was abducted, court documents indicate.

But the jury in Michael Rafferty's trial — now sequestered and deciding his fate — doesn't know it, along with a number of other facts that the court deemed inadmissible.

The Crown contends Rafferty also downloaded "substantial" amounts of child pornography, and there was evidence of snuff films — movies depicting real killings — on his laptop. A woman he met online alleged that he drugged, choked and raped her. A litany of past dates reported he had a penchant for sexual choking. Some even complained of his "disconcerting" behaviour toward their children.

The jury doesn't know that, either.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Heeney refused to allow evidence found on Rafferty's laptop and BlackBerry — the searches, the evidence of child porn and a downloaded movie about Karla Homolka — because the search violated Rafferty's charter rights.

When police legally searched Rafferty's car and found the two devices, they should have obtained another search warrant to examine their contents, Heeney ruled — even though at the time there was no binding authority upon them to do so. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Defence lawyers Dirk Derstein and Laura Giordano speak to the media outside the court at a break in proceedings. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

For continuing coverage of the Michael Rafferty trial, go to metronews.ca.

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ADD A GAME-DAY WINNER TO THE MENU

Thinking of getting together with friends to cheer on your favourite sports team, watch a soccer tourney, or take in a London 2012 Olympic event? Beer is fine, but why not add a real winner to the roster — a meat lover's SMIRNOFF® Caesar. Trade in the celery stick for a beef jerky strip and swap the rim of celery salt for crushed bacon bits. This combination of savoury flavours provides a tasty drink as well as a protein fix.

SMIRNOFF® CAESAR

1.5 oz SMIRNOFF® Vodka
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3 dashes Tabasco™ Sauce
3 dashes Worcestershire™ Sauce

Rim the Collins glass with salt and pepper. Add ice, SMIRNOFF® Vodka and Mott's Clamato™ Juice. Top with 3 dashes each of Worcestershire™ Sauce and Tabasco™ Sauce. Garnish with celery stick and enjoy.

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Undulating blob is a type of jellyfish: Expert

Captured by a deep-sea camera, this shot of a large blob has spawned a week of what-the-heck-is-that Internet speculation. Guesses have run from a plastic bag, to a floating whale placenta — to a jellyfish. Writing on his Facebook page, Dr. Steven Haddock of JellyWatch.org identifies the creature as Deepstaria enigmatica, a jellyfish. It's not that rare, but this one is large and it's rarely seen intact. YOUTUBE.COM

PM leaves door open

Gay marriage in New Zealand?

New Zealand PM John Key has broken a silence on gay marriage and left the door open for making it legal. The opposition leader also expressed support. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Back to haunt him

Romney apologizes for past bullying

U.S. Republican presidential front-runner Mitt Romney admitted on Thursday he "did some dumb things" in high school. He issued a tepid apology over revelations he bullied and physically accosted a classmate who was presumed gay.

His remarks came in the wake of a Washington Post story that quotes several former Romney schoolmates as they recall the presidential wannabe holding down a classmate and forcibly cutting his blond bangs. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Obama: I decided to back gay marriage before VP's remark

U.S. Biden says sorry to Obama for comments that led president to speed up his public acknowledgement of his support for same-sex unions: Source

U.S. President Barack Obama says he'd already decided to come out for gay marriage before Vice-President Joe Biden publicly endorsed it.

Obama tells ABC in an interview that he wasn't worried about being upstaged by Biden on the volatile social issue.

However, at one point, Obama says, "Would I have preferred to have done this in my own way, in my own terms without, I think, there being a lot of notice to everybody? Sure."

But Obama quickly adds, "All's well that ends well."


U.S. President Barack Obama
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He tells ABC's Robin Roberts that he "already made a decision to take this position" before Biden made his comments Sunday in response to a question in a nationally broadcast interview.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan endorsed gay marriage on Monday.

Obama says in Wednesday's interview — shown Thursday morning — he didn't revise his position as part of a re-election campaign ploy.

"It would be hard to argue that somehow this is something that I'd be doing for political advantage because, frankly, the politics, it's not clear how they're going to cut."

Several countries, mostly in Europe but also Canada, Argentina and South Africa, already allow gay marriage. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Sochi. Chechens, Georgians blamed for foiled terror plot

Russian agents have foiled terror attack plans on the Black Sea resort of Sochi, host of the 2014 Winter Olympics, authorities said Thursday, blaming Chechen separatists and neighbouring Georgia for jointly masterminding the plans.

Georgian authorities and security experts, however, called the accusations "paranoid" and "hard to believe."

Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee said the FSB, the successor agency to the KGB, had discovered 10 caches of weapons and ammunition on May 4 and May 5 in Georgia's breakaway republic of Abkhazia, which lies just miles from Sochi.

The arms seized included portable surface-to-air missiles, grenade launchers, flame throwers, grenades, rifles, explosives and maps, the security service said.

Authorities said the terrorists were planning to smuggle the explosives and arms into Sochi "between 2012 and 2014 to use them during the preparations and during the games."

They did not elaborate on how they came to this conclusion.

Sochi is less than a dozen miles away from Russia's border with Abkhazia, a tiny province that declared independence from Georgia in 2008.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland

Church rebuilding amid sex scandal

The archbishop of Dublin, a leading voice for reform following Ireland's devastating Catholic church sex-abuse scandal, says the church is trying to rebuild even as it confronts the ghosts of its past.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Europe

Merkel slams Ukraine repression

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is drawing a parallel between Ukraine and its authoritarian neighbour Belarus, saying the citizens of both countries are "still living under dictatorship and repression."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian jet sales in limbo after disastrous test flight

Sukhoi. Moscow jumps to plane's defence following crash in Indonesia that appears to have killed 45 aboard



In this photo released by the Indonesian Air Force, the remains of a missing Sukhoi Superjet-100 are scattered on the mountainside in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, Thursday. The new Russian-made passenger plane disappeared Wednesday during a demonstration flight. INDONESIAN AIR FORCE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The crash of a new, Russian-made jetliner into a jagged Indonesian volcano during a flight to impress potential buyers threw doubt on dozens of plane sales Thursday just as Moscow seeks a comeback in foreign markets. All 45 people aboard were feared dead.

Search and rescue teams climbed through the mist-shrouded, jungly terrain for nearly 20 hours to reach the site where the plane roared in at nearly 800 km/h Wednesday, exploding and raining debris down a nearly vertical slope.

When the weather clears, bodies will have to be hoisted by nets and ropes onto hovering choppers, said Gagah Prakoso, a spokesman for the national search and rescue agency.

"We're still searching for survivors," he said. "But it doesn't look good."

The Sukhoi Superjet-100 — Russia's first new model of passenger jet since the fall of the Soviet Union two decades ago — was supposed to kick-start the nation's efforts to modernize its fleet and resurrect its neglected aerospace industry.

Indonesia, the fourth stop of a six-nation "Welcome Asia!" tour, was one of Sukhoi's brightest hopes, accounting for a big chunk of the 170 orders taken globally so far.

Kartika Airlines, Sky Aviation and Queen Air — among dozens of airlines to have popped up in the nation of 240 million to meet the growing demand for cheap air travel in the last decade — together were aiming to buy at least 48.

"We will wait for the result of the investigation before making any further (purchasing) decisions," said Arifin Seman, one of the top executives at Kartika.

Krisman Tarigan, president-director of Sky, said he "wouldn't rule out cancellation if it turned out the crash occurred because the plane was not airworthy."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Deadly car bombs shake Syria

Terror in Damascus. Massive blasts near government building kill 55 and further derail dwindling hopes for an end to violence

Twin suicide car bombs exploded outside a military intelligence building and killed 55 people Thursday, tossing mangled bodies in the street in the deadliest attack against a regime target since the Syrian uprising began 14 months ago.

The bombings fuelled fears of a rising Islamic militant element among the forces seeking to oust President Bashar Assad and dealt a further blow to international efforts to end the bloodshed.

The first car bomb went off on a key six-lane highway during the morning rush hour, knocking down a security wall outside the government building and drawing people to the scene, witnesses said. A much larger blast soon followed, shaking the neighbourhood, setting dozens of cars ablaze and sending up a grey mushroom cloud visible around the capital.



Flames and smoke rise from burning cars after two bombs exploded in Qazaz neighbourhood in Damascus, Syria, on Thursday. SANA NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian state TV showed dozens of bodies, some charred or dismembered, strewn in the rubble or still inside damaged cars. An Associated Press reporter at the scene saw medics in rubber gloves picking through the site for human remains amid the two craters that were blasted into the asphalt.

The Interior Ministry, which oversees the police and security services, said 55 people were killed and more than 370 were wounded. Officials said suicide bombers detonated explosives weighing more than 1,000 kilograms.

The government blamed the attack on armed terrorists it says are driving the uprising, which has grown into the strongest threat to the Assad family dynasty in its four decades in power.

Syria's UN ambassador, Bashar Ja'afari, told the Security Council that a second bombing in Aleppo on Thursday also killed civilians and damaged property.

A leader of the Free Syrian Army, an umbrella group of anti-regime militias throughout the country, condemned the Damascus attack and denied the group was involved.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but a shadowy militant group calling itself the Al-Nusra Front has claimed past attacks through statements on militant websites.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Enemies of the state

The blast was the largest and most deadly yet in a series of bombings targeting state security buildings since last December.

- **Deadly trend.** Most of the attacks have been in Aleppo and Damascus, which have generally stood by Assad.
- **Damascus targeted.** The attack was the fifth to hit Damascus since December 2011, when a car bomb killed 44 people.

International community

Officials outraged

World powers seeking to halt Syria's unrest condemned the attack and urged all sides to adhere to a ceasefire brokered by UN and Arab League envoy Kofi Annan.

"In order to prevent another escalation of violence, we continue to call on the Syrian regime to fully and immediately implement the Annan plan," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in Washington.

Maj. Gen. Robert Mood, the Norwegian head of a team of observers overseeing the ceasefire, toured the site and said the Syrian people do not deserve this "terrible violence."

"It is not going to solve any problems," he said. "It is only going to create more suffering for women and children."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Attacks continue

Suicide bombers hit Afghanistan

Taliban militants dressed in police uniforms blew themselves up after being caught trying to sneak through a checkpoint Thursday in eastern Afghanistan, killing five people, authorities said.

The men refused to surrender, triggering an hour-long gun battle with police during which two attackers were fatally shot and the remaining four detonated vests rigged with explosives, Zadran said. Two civilians and three policemen were killed in the blasts, and another three police officers were wounded.

Zadran said the men were on their way to attack a district government office. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Pentagon reacts. U.S. military vows it will continue search for soldier held captive by Taliban

The military and the intelligence community are doing everything possible to find 26-year-old Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was taken prisoner in Afghanistan almost three years ago, Pentagon leaders said Thursday in the aftermath of criticism from the soldier's family.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, says there is a poster of the soldier inside U.S. Central Command's operations centre as a constant reminder that he is missing in action. He said he has met with Bergdahl's parents in his office and corresponded with them several times.

Bergdahl's parents went public this week with secret U.S. attempts to trade their son for Taliban prisoners in U.S. hands. They say they are frustrated by what they believe are stalled efforts to free him.

He is the subject of a proposed prisoner swap in which the Obama administration would allow the transfer of five Taliban prisoners long held at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Friendly Parisian Spiderman

French urban climber Alain Robert, known as Spiderman, climbs up the 231-metre First Tower, the tallest skyscraper in France, in the La Defense business district in Courbevoie, outside Paris, on Thursday.
MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mayan astronomy more optimistic than we thought?

Celestial calendar.
Small room inside Guatemalan ruins reveals detailed work and calls into question doomsday predictions



In this undated photo, conservator Angelyn Bass cleans the surface of a wall in a Mayan house that dates to the 9th century A.D. in the Maya city Zultun in northeastern Guatemala. TYRONE TURNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Archaeologists have found a small room in Mayan ruins where royal scribes apparently used walls like a blackboard to keep track of astronomical records and the society's intricate calendar some 1,200 years ago.

The walls reveal the oldest known astronomical tables from the Maya. Scientists already knew they must have been keeping such records at that time, but until now the oldest known examples dated from about 600 years later.

Astronomical records were key to the Mayan calendar, which has gotten some attention recently because of doomsday warnings that it predicts the end of the world this December. Experts say it makes no such prediction. The new finding provides a bit of backup: The calculations include a time span longer than 6,000 years, meaning it could extend well beyond 2012.

"Why would they go into those numbers if the world is going to come to an end this year?" observed Anthony Aveni of Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., an expert on Mayan astronomy.

Aveni, along with William Saturno of Boston University and others, report the discovery in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

The room is part of a large complex of Mayan ruins in the rain forest at Xultun in northeastern Guatemala. The walls also contain portraits of a seated king and some other figures, but it's clear those have no connection to the astronomical writings, the scientists said.

One wall contains a calendar based on phases of the moon, covering about 13 years. The researchers said they think it might have been used to keep track of which deity was overseeing the moon at particular times.

Aveni said it would allow scribes to predict the appearance of a full moon years in advance, for example. Such record-keeping was key to Mayan astrology and rituals and could have been used to advise the king on when to go to war or how good the year's crops would be, he said.

On an adjacent wall are numbers indicating four time spans from roughly 935 to 6,700 years. It's not clear what they represent, but maybe the scribes were doing calculations that combined observations from important astronomical events like the movements of Mars, Venus and the moon, the researchers said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Written in the stars

"What you have here is astronomy driven by religion." **Anthony Aveni of Colgate University,** discussing the recent archeological discovery in Guatemala.

Ethics conflict

Girl Scouts facing scrutiny from Catholic church

Long a lightning rod for conservative criticism, the Girl Scouts of the USA are now facing their highest-level challenge yet: An official inquiry by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

At issue are concerns about program materials that some Catholics find offensive, as well as assertions that the Scouts associate with other groups espousing stances that conflict with church teaching. The Scouts, who have numerous parish-sponsored troops, deny many of the claims and defend their alliances.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thrifty find. Man buys signed Picasso print for $14

An unemployed Ohio man was browsing at his local thrift store for items he could restore and resell when he spotted a Picasso poster with the word "Exposition'' written across the front.

He handed over $14.14 for what he saw as a nice commercial print.

Some Internet searches later — and a closer look at markings on the lower right area — and he sold what's believed to be a signed Picasso print for US $7,000 to a private buyer who wants to remain anonymous.

His online search led him to the print's history as an exhibition advertisement. And he began to look closely at some very faded red writing on the lower right area, which he originally thought were random pencil marks from the thrift store.



A signed Picasso poster purchased for $14 in Ohio. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It wasn't until I realized where the signature would be, and that those little red marks were right where the signature should be, that I got a stronger magnifying glass out and determined that, 'Holy cow! It's really a Picasso.'' THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Orange wave continues to hit Tory shores



NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair CHRIS YOUNG/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

Poll. Jack Layton legacy continues, according to Harris Decima survey

A new poll suggests the New Democrats are widening their support across the country.

The Canadian Press Harris Decima survey indicates that the NDP have 34 per cent of popular support, compared to 30 per cent for the Conservatives.

With a margin of error of 2.2 percentage points, support for the two parties could be equally split.

"Remember this is a party that a decade ago, half the electorate said they would "never" vote for," said Allan Gregg, chairman of Harris Decima.

"To broaden their base as we see in these data is quite remarkable."

Overall, the Liberals continue to hold steady at 20 per cent support, the poll suggests.

Just over 2,000 Canadians were polled for the survey in the last week of April and first week of May.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Orange crush

- **The poll indicates that the New Democrats have become competitive in traditional Tory areas.** Among rural Canadians, the poll suggests the New Democrats have 31 per cent support, compared to 35 per cent for the Tories.
- **The NDP appear to have the support of 36 per cent of urban and suburban men, a number that has risen steadily since February.** Meanwhile, the Conservatives are seeing their support in that demographic appear to hover around 29 per cent, down from close to 40 per cent four months ago.
- **As well, the New Democrats appear to have supplanted the Liberals as the natural party among women, said Allan Gregg, chairman of Harris Decima.**

Conservatives. Wearing a mask at a riot gets you 10 years under proposed bill

Conservative MPs have agreed to impose a maximum 10-year prison term on protesters who wear masks during a riot.

A proposed private members' bill would make it a crime for protesters to wear a mask or disguise while participating in a riot or unlawful assembly, and this week the Harper government put its weight behind the legislation.

The Conservative majority on a House of Commons committee that's examining the bill has taken matters a step further by doubling the proposed maximum prison term to 10 years from five.

Blake Richards, the Conservative backbencher who proposed the new legislation, has said he sees the law as being mainly preventative in nature, allowing police to step in and arrest masked participants before protests spiral out of control.

The hard-line amendment to double the maximum penalty is just the latest in a spate of government tough-on-crime measures rolled out as Conservative support appears to be slipping in public opinion polls.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NDP objections

- **Government MPs passed the amendment over the objections of the NDP Opposition, who argue the bill is a sham because wearing a mask to commit any crime is already an offence under the Criminal Code.**

Russell Williams

Peter MacKay sorry for picture

Defence Minister Peter MacKay has apologized after a photo of convicted murderer Russell Williams appeared in a Defence Department booklet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mother's Day survey

Women pull the purse strings: Poll

The Bank of Montreal says in a new report in advance of Mother's Day that women are the chief financial officers of their households.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A little red ball can help change it all
Jumpstart

Number of farms drops

StatsCan. Agricultural census shows farmers are shifting efforts away from the cattle farming that was once the industry's backbone

Canada's agricultural landscape — once dominated by small farms and plentiful livestock — is now characterized by larger operations that focus on crop production, new census numbers suggested Thursday.

Data from Statistics Canada's 2011 census of agriculture showed the country's farmers are consolidating their operations and shifting their efforts away from the cattle farming that was once the backbone of Canadian farming.

The number of total farms shrank 10.3 per cent since the last census release in 2006, continuing a downward trend that first surfaced in 1941. The number of farm operators also dropped 10.1 per cent over the period.

Data suggests, however, that the decline in overall numbers doesn't necessarily point to a downturn in total farming.

Although the number of farms slipped to 205,730 from 229.373 in the previous census, StatsCan said many smaller farms have been consolidated into larger operations over that five year stretch.

The total area of land being farmed slipped only four per cent to 160,155,748 acres, while the average farm size jumped seven per cent to 778 acres.

Alfons Weersink, professor of agriculture at the University of Guelph, said digging deeper into the census data reveals a sector that's in fairly robust health.

"The last several years have been good for most of agriculture," Weersink said in a telephone interview. "Profits have been up, prices have been increased quite significantly from the last census.... There's been a significant boost up." THE CANADIAN PRESS



The climbing Corvette

Crews begin to remove the steel cage around a 2012 Corvette valued at $50,000 US, after they attached it to a pole 42 feet above Evansville, Ind., on Wednesday. Larry Bennett built the lot in 1970 where he first placed a brand-new orange Corvette as an ornament for the dealership's business sign. The business will offer up to 200 used vehicles at the location.

JASON CLARK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google. Bing builds search showcase for social media

Microsoft's Bing search engine is heading in a new direction as it drills deeper into Facebook's social network and Twitter's messaging service to showcase information unlikely to be found on Google.

The changes, unveiled Thursday, will reshape how Bing displays its search results. It represents Microsoft's most dramatic shift in Internet search since the software maker introduced Bing as a "decision engine" nearly three years ago.

Microsoft Corp. is counting on the new format to loosen Google's stranglehold on the lucrative Internet search market. In the process, Microsoft hopes to turn a profit in its online division, which has lost more than $6.3 billion US since Bing's June 2009 debut.

Bing replaced "Live Search," a mostly futile attempt to challenge Google. Microsoft touted Bing as a Google alternative that would provide more meaningful results by helping people make important decisions, such as picking a doctor and finding the best time to buy an airline ticket. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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GETTING IN THE GAME

CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART CHARITIES HAS HELPED MORE THAN 400,000 KIDS PARTICIPATE IN SPORTS

Jonathan Hood spends a lot of time telling young people about his own athletic journey. For the Hamilton Tiger-Cats defensive back, sharing the lessons he has learned with others is an important part of the job. "Sports can teach you how to win and lose gracefully and how to get along with other people," he says. "It can also teach you about teamwork, group dynamics and life skills."

When Hood isn't honing his own impressive football skills, he works as a public speaker, mentor and coach. He runs a camp in the off-season that teaches young players the fundamentals of football. He's involved with the GTA Youth Athletics Club and has spearheaded MPower, an organization that provides leadership skills and mentoring for at-risk youth. Plus, he speaks to high school students every chance he gets.

These days Hood is spreading his message about sport in another way, through his involvement with Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. He's one of a number of elite Canadian athletes who have lent their names and images to a 12-month calendar that will raise funds for Canadian Tire Jumpstart's many sport and recreational programs.

The list of participants in the calendar is impressive. Four-time world figure-skating champion Kurt Browning, champion high jumper Nicole Forrester, Chicago Black Hawks star Jonathan Toews and hockey gold medallist Sami Jo Small were all chosen because of their continuing support for Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

Since 2005, Canadian Tire Jumpstart has helped more than 400,000 children participate in sports and recreation programs. But with one-third of Canadian families unable to enrol their children in sports programs because of cost, many kids are still missing out on the health benefits, self-esteem and camaraderie that participating in sports can offer.

Add to that the fact that budget cuts across the country mean less physical education and extracurricular activity in school. What's more, childhood obesity is dramatically on the rise, along with a general perception that neighbourhoods aren't safe places to play anymore.

Hood believes it's up to everyone in a community to do their part to support youth sports and activities. "You have to look at yourself," he says. "If you were coached and mentored when you were a kid, you are better off for it. Programs like Canadian Tire Jumpstart are opportunities to let young people achieve their dreams. We should all support that."

Jumpstart

JUMPSTART DAY IN MAY

On May 26, most Canadian Tire stores in Canada will host fun activities and draws to help raise money for their local community. Examples of this year's Jumpstart Day events include car washes, barbecues, draws and raffles.

Throughout May, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities is asking Canadians to donate $2 for its popular red ball in one of two new designs (a basketball and a baseball) to support Jumpstart Day. The One Million Red Ball (OneMillionRedBalls.ca) campaign kicked off on May 4. Customers can pick up a ball at Canadian Tire stores and Gas+ locations, Mark's and Pita Pit locations.

"We're challenging Canadians to raise $1 million through the sale of the balls," says Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities president Dan Thompson.





KIDS GET A JUMPSTART ON SPORTS

Every child in Canada has the right to participate in sports and recreation activities, but many families can't afford the fees. Since Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities was established in 2005, it has helped more than 400,000 children aged four to 18 take part in such activities as swimming, dance, tae kwon do, soccer, basketball and learn-to-bike programs.

"We cover the cost of registration, equipment and/or transportation," says Dan Thompson, the president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. "We also lend support to unique community-based initiatives aimed at increasing access to sport and recreation programs."

More than 300 local chapters across the country partner with such community organizations as Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys & Girls Clubs, parks and recreation departments, sports associations — even the police. It means that Canadian Tire Jumpstart transforms not only a child's life, but also an entire community.

An incredible 100 per cent of customer donations go directly to help kids in financial need take part in organized sport and recreation. And any Canadian Tire Jumpstart fundraising done locally stays in that community.

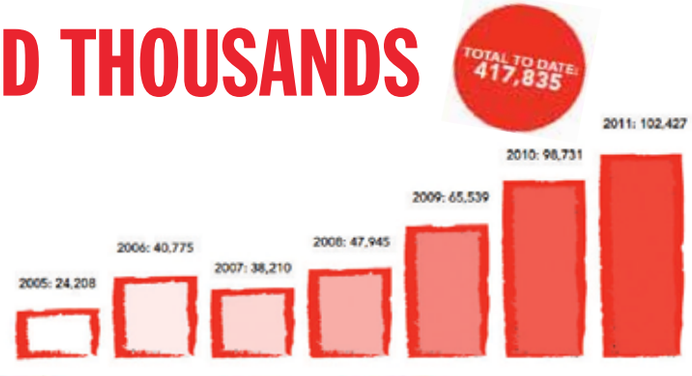
Kids get so much more than the physical health benefits of exercise from playing sports or dancing. "They also gain self-confidence and learn leadership skills," says Thompson. "We want Canadians to try to imagine how different their lives might be now if they hadn't been able to do these activities when they were young."

Applications for assistance can be submitted from Jan. 15 to June 1 for spring/summer programs, and from July 1 to Nov. 1 for fall/winter programs. Applicants will be notified by their local Canadian Tire Jumpstart chapter representative if they've been approved or if more details are needed. All of the information is kept confidential.

Visit canadiantire.ca/jumpstart or call 1-877-616-6600 to learn more.

WE'VE HELPED THOUSANDS

In 2011, thanks to generous donations and fundraising efforts, we helped 102,427 kids participate in 71 activities. From swim club to hockey camp, from football to dance, Canadian Tire Jumpstart funds are reaching the kids who need it the most.



PERFECT PARTNERSHIP

The Canadian Tire Jumpstart/RecKids Program is a joint effort of Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Community Recreation Services and the eight local Canadian Tire dealers. It offers assistance to children and youth who, due to lack of funds, would otherwise not be able to participate in sport and recreation activities.

In fact, since 2005, the Canadian Tire Jumpstart program has locally allocated $701,920 helping 8,008 Kids in the HRM get involved in their favourite sport or activity.

"This partnership is an investment into the future of young people," says Charles Woodford, regional manager, Atlantic Canada Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities. "It fosters co-operation and good citizenship, promotes positive behaviours and encourages a healthy lifestyle."

The parents of children aged 4 to 18 years of age can apply for funding. The children or teenagers must be residents of HRM, and the programs their parents are applying for must take place in HRM.

For more information please visit halifax.ca/rec/JumpstartRecKids or email jumpstart@halifax.ca or call 490-4114 or 490-3894.

May 26 is Canadian Tire Jumpstart Day and 100 per cent of all funding raised in your local Canadian Tire Store that day goes directly to financially underprivileged kids in the HRM to play a sport or recreation activity of their choice.

Funding of a maximum of $200 a year can be used to pay for sport, art, music, cultural or recreation fees. Canadian Tire Jumpstart/RecKids doesn't reimburse parents; instead, the registered charity will arrange payment directly with the organization.





METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING
CANADIAN TIRE JUMPSTART

Jumpstart OneMillionRedBalls.ca

DICTATOR GOING TO BE A RIOT



THE LIST
Neil Morton
Metro

1 Steve (GM) Nash. Canada's men's national basketball team is in great hands after the announcement that two-time NBA MVP Steve Nash has been named general manager. What would make things even sweeter is if the Victoria native, who is a free agent this off-season, signs with the Toronto Raptors. Captain Canada. Captain Toronto.

2 Walk a mile in her shoes. This International Men's March to stop rape, sexual assault and gender violence gives men, women and families the opportunity to raise awareness in their communities about the impact of sexual violence by walking in women's high-heeled shoes. Join a walk in your community or start your own by visiting walkamileinhershoes.org.

3 The Dictator. Admiral General Shabazz Aladeen is a dictator from the Republic of Wadiya and appeared on the Today Show with Matt Lauer this week with a handful of guards, and made some threatening remarks. Luckily General Aladeen is actually actor Sacha Baron Cohen, who was promoting his new comedy The Dictator, which opens May 16. Go see it. It will be a riot.

4 Emily is back. Emily Maynard, whose romance with former bachelor Brad Womack did not work out after he proposed to her, is the new Bachelorette. It premieres Monday May 14, and suitors include a data-destruction specialist — fitting for the show, perhaps, with its high percentage of failed romances. Heck, even its host, Chris Harrison, recently announced he's splitting from his wife.

5 Mark Zuckerberg's B-day. Billionaire boy Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook — one of the most powerful brands on the planet (and soon to go public) — turns the ripe old age of 28 this Sunday. Before he hits 30, I predict Zuckerberg will create a transporter that will beam us up to other planets. We can share those planetary pics on Facebook.

6 Desperate Housewives finale. The now iconic Wisteria Lane will be no more after this Sunday when Desperate Housewives bids adieu to fans in a two-hour finale. Many former cast members will be returning for this tear-fest. The only consolation is knowing that there are still so many real-life desperate housewives we can continue to gossip about.

7 Klout. Klout.com, a social app that measures your social-media reach, is all the talk right now with the cool kids. If you have a high Klout score (the highest you can get is 100 — only Justin Bieber has that), the more influential you are online. I have no idea what my score is, but please follow me @neilmorton, tweet at me and retweet my tweets and I won't be as scared to look.

8 Chris Rumble. This leukemia patient/young filmmaker/hero at Seattle Children's Hospital created an amazing video, Stronger: Seattle Children's Hospital, starring (and empowering) fellow cancer patients who are going through painful chemotherapy. Performed to Kelly Clarkson's song Stronger, the video has gone viral on YouTube this week. Brilliant.

9 Copenhagen Philharmonic ... in the subway. The Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra did a terrific flash mob in the Copenhagen Metro subway, and the video already has nearly a million views this week. With flash mobs becoming ubiquitous, I'm thinking of starting a 24-7 flash mob that never stops flash-mobbing in a grand social experiment. Watch out.



British actor Sacha Baron Cohen arrives for the world premiere of The Dictator on Thursday in London. JONATHAN SHORT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On telly: It's reigning



ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royal weather

Britons get a surprise on BBC

If this king thing doesn't work out, Prince Charles may be able to fall back on a budding career as a weatherman.

The heir to the British throne and his wife Camilla gave it a try Thursday, each reading out weather reports during a visit to BBC studios in Glasgow, Scotland.

The sight of the nattily dressed Charles giving a credible performance in the unfamiliar role caused many Britons to do a double-take as he read the lunchtime news weather spot.

The prince delivered a nearly perfect performance.

Palace officials say Charles and Camilla were visiting the studios to mark the 60-year anniversary of BBC TV Scotland. The visit was also part of the pair's annual Holyrood week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, reads the weather on the BBC. ANDREW MILLIGAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just kidding

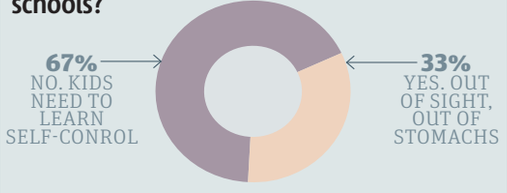
"There's potential for a few flurries over Balmoral. Who the hell wrote this script?"

The heir to the throne ad-libbed while reading the afternoon weather report.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should junk food be banned in public schools?



Twitter

@seanjoudry: Sad to see the #HRSB reduce the number of teachers in HRM due to budg. cuts. It always amazes me how un-NDP like this NDP government is.

@BarringtonHFX: theres some well-loved moms in the HRM. Some happy surprises coming moms! #flowers #halifax #delivery #barringtonst

@Jessielawrence8: I was going to go home for the weekend for mothers day, but now I might only make it home Sunday. Stoked for Halifax's #OpenCity now!

@HalifaxPM: Rick Mercer spotted at halifax Farmers Market with a bag of potatoes (not for Peter MacKay he says) :) @rickmercer #rickmercerreport

metro

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Will Prometheus live up to its artistic and creepy space opera potential? HANDOUT

The hot flicks of summer

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Preview. Crouse and Breslin share their picks for popcorn season — Prometheus and The Dark Knight Rises top the list

Richard: Mark, as summer movie titles go, Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter has to be the grabbiest. Either that or Piranha 3DD. Both sound like fun Saturday afternoon matinees, but for nighttime viewing I think I'm most looking forward to Prometheus, the sort-of prequel to Alien. It's Ridley Scott in sci-fi mode, which means we can expect an artistic and creepy space opera with cool effects and a face-hugger or two.

Mark: Yes, I'm looking forward to Prometheus as well. But am I foolish to secretly count down the days to Rock of Ages, the '80s hair-metal musical? I avoided the live show but the trailer looked like a hoot! C'mon, Richard — Tom Cruise in a blond shag rockin' out to Foreigner hits? The art of cinema just doesn't get any better!

RC: I hope Rock of Ages is as loud and proud as the music it covers. Forget 3D for this one, give me Odorama! I want to smell the gallons of Aqua Net it must have taken to give Alec Baldwin that hair! Also likely on the loud and proud side should be The Bourne Legacy. Jeremy Renner is stepping in for Matt Damon who made the character famous. Renner is all kinds of awesome, but let's see if he can duke out like Damon.

MB: Reboots make me nervous, Richard. They work too hard or not hard enough.

Synopsis

Everybody knows the official first day of summer is Wednesday June 20, but in movie theatres the silly season actually starts earlier. In fact, it began last weekend with the release of The Avengers, the boffo superhero movie that kicked off the balmy blockbuster season. This week the Reel Guys have a look at the superhero stories, remakes, reboots, reimaginings and more we'll be watching during air conditioner season.

Which brings us to Total Recall, one of my favourite dystopian sci-fi films. Will it be better than the Schwarzenegger version? Worse? Will Colin Farrell run for governor someday? Don't know, but I can't wait to see it. Also Ted, the talking, wisecracking, R-rated teddy bear movie. If this were not Seth Macfarlane's movie, I'd totally avoid it, but the trailer is hysterical!

RC: The red band trailer for Ted made me laugh harder than almost anything else I've seen this year. It'll be rude and crude, but I think Mark Wahlberg is an underrated comic actor, so I'm excited. I can't believe we've gotten to this point and haven't mentioned the caped elephant in the room, The Dark Knight Rises. I saw six minutes of this on an IMAX screen and it made my mind grapes tingle. And I cannot wait to see the rest.

MB: It will be the movie of the summer, the box office hit of the year, and turn Tom Hardy into a household name. I'll probably camp out in line the night before it opens.

2

SCENE

Celebrity buzz

Brand returns

Russell Brand is returning to the MTV stage. The 36-year-old comedian has signed on to host the 2012 MTV Movie Awards. "This MTV Movie Awards will be more impressive than The Avengers, and you won't have to wait an hour for someone to Hulk out," Brand said Thursday. After hosting MTV's Video Music Awards in 2008 and 2009, Brand took on leading roles in films such as Get Him to the Greek, Arthur and Rock of Ages, which hits theatres next month. This is his first time hosting the MTV Movie Awards

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Ubisoft assembling Avengers video game for Kinect, Wii U



The Avengers 2: The dream team

Who will appear in the sequel? We guess which characters, and the actors who should play them. Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, the Hulk, Hawkeye and Black Widow may have made an impressive roster in The Avengers, but there are more superheroes who are up to the task of saving Earth. In honour of The Avengers 2, announced this week, here are some other characters who have claimed affiliation with the Avengers at one point in Marvel's history. **METRO WORLD NEWS**



Ant-Man

Powers
He can grow or shrink to any size. Also, he can control an army of ants telepathically.

Who should play him
Simon Pegg. He showed us he can play the nerdy mathematician role in Star Trek, which means he would probably make a good nerdy scientist.

Likelihood this is going to happen
There's already an Ant-Man movie in the works with director Edgar Wright penning the script alongside Joe Cornish. Seeing that Pegg and Wright are frequent collaborators, we think — well hope — we'll see this tiny crusader in the next giant blockbuster. Plus, he co-founded The Avengers team. He deserves a spot.



Venom

Powers
He's basically another version of Spider-Man — except super evil and much stronger.

Who should play him
Jason Statham. Definitely not Topher Grace.

Likelihood this is going to happen
Venom was already in Spider-Man 3, which was distributed by Sony, so the character faces the Wolverine dilemma. However, one could argue that this Venom is a technically different character, so who knows.



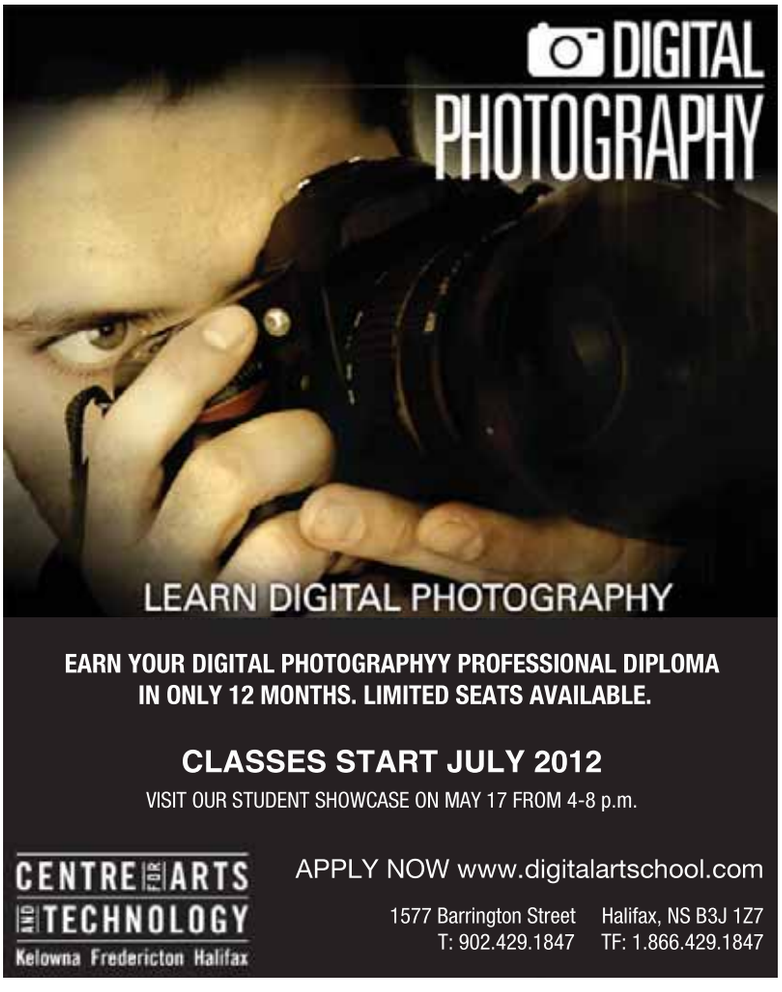
Wolverine

Powers
Besides his accelerated healing process, he's got an adamantium-bonded skeleton. Plus, you don't want to get in the way of his claws.

Who should play him
Hugh Jackman. He's the definitive Wolverine.

Likelihood this is going to happen
Sadly, because Wolverine has already starred in 20th Century Fox movies and the rights to that character is owned by the studio, it's unlikely that he'll be allowed to appear in a Disney/Paramount/Marvel property. But, one can dream.





Drama



Snow

Director. Rohan Fernando

Stars. Kalista Zackhariyas, Ria Mae, Mohan Fernando

When Parvati (Zackhariyas) loses her family in the 2004 tsunami, the 24-year-old Sri Lankan is forced to start a new life in Canada. Haunted by her loss, Parvati struggles to move forward in a strange country with relatives she's never met. Though this new family insists that she is "home", Parvati must discover a sense of place on her own. Parvati slowly floats through her new life in Canada, but her experiences feel disconnected and the characters she meets are never fully developed.

REGAN REID

Comedy



Dark Shadows

Director. Tim Burton

Stars. Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Eva Green

Watching Tim Burton's big budget cinematic relaunch of Dan Curtis' cult '60s daytime soap opera Dark Shadows is like being trapped in some sort of drug laced alternate universe … and that's a good thing. Burton casts his muse Johnny Depp as vampire Barnabas Collins, who is freed from his coffin in 1972 after being put there by his spurned lover centuries before. How he copes with a disenfranchised America and his ancestors is campy fun for sure. Outside of the surrealism, this is really just a soap opera after all. It's also one of the bravest, weirdest studio films this critic has ever seen. **CHRIS ALEXANDER**

Drama



Footnote

Director. Joseph Cedar

Stars. Shlomo Bar-Aba, Lior Ashkenazi, Aliza Rosen

Israel's 2012 Foreign Language Oscar entry is an intriguing, nerve jangling and oppressively narrow story that would be funny if it weren't so pathetic. Israeli father and son academics are torn apart by a national prize; the elder doggedly pursued Talmudic theories for 30 years only to have them made redundant when a colleague scooped him. In his obsessive, paranoid misery, he sees his son as his real rival. Things get a lot worse in grandly academic and hilariously lowbrow ways.

ANNE BRODIE

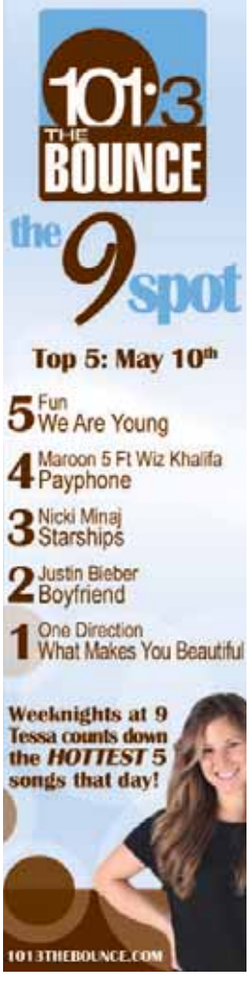
Quoted

"[Alien] belongs at the top of about five different lists, including best thriller and best horror film, as well. Ridley Scott did so many things right here — from the grimy, lived-in world of the Nostromo mixed with H.R. Giger's eerily seductive design to the perfect cast and Sigourney Weaver's bad-ass performance. I also love the way Scott keeps the alien unseen for so much of the gut-churning build up, then delivers one of the most terrifying creatures ever seen on screen. I still can't watch this one after about 8 p.m."

The Avengers' Clark Gregg talking about his favourite science fiction movies of all time.









THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., MAY 11 TO THURS., MAY 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Halifax

Bayers Lake
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake

21 Jump Street (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:55-9:30
American Reunion (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4-7:15-9:55
Chimpanzee (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Mon 1:40-3:50-6:40-7:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 6:40-7:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 7:40
Dark Shadows (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 12:45-1:50-3:35-4:30-6:25-7:20-9:15-10:05 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:45-1:50-3:35-4:30-6:25-7:20-9:15-10:05
The Dictator (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:35-1:45-3:55-4:05-7:30-7:50-9:50-10:10
Dr. Seuss' the Lorax (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:35-3:55
The Five-Year Engagement (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:05
The Hunger Games (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:25-9:45
The Lucky One (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-7:05-9:35
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-1:10-1:30-4:05-4:20-4:45-8-8:30-9:05-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 1:10-1:30-4:05-4:20-4:45-8-8:30-9:05-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 12:50-1:10-1:30-4:05-4:20-4:45-8-8:30-9:25
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-2-3:45-6:35-7-9:55-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:30-2-3:45-6:35-7-9:55-10:15
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:25-6:15-9
The Raven (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 7:30-10:05
Safe (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:25-3-7:40-10

Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake

Dark Shadows: The IMAX Experience (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3:25-6:50
Marvel's the Avengers: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-9:40

Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.

Snow (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Sun 4:15-6:30-8:45 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon 5:45-8 Dolby Stereo Digital Tue 3:30-5:45-8 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 5:45-8
Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860
Damsels in Distress (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 1:05-3:30-7:10-9:50 Stadium Seating Sat 7:10-9:50 Stadium Seating Sun 1:05-3:30-7:10-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 3:35-7:10-9:50 Stadium Seating Thu 3:35
Dark Shadows (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:20-7-9:45 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-7-9:45
The Dictator (STC) Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:20
The Five-Year Engagement (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:05-3:50-6:35-9:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:50-6:35-9:20 Stadium Seating Wed 9:20 Stadium Seating Thu 6:35-9:20
Footnote (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:15-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:45-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:10
The Hunger Games (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 6:30-9:35
Marvel's Avengers Assemble (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3-6:20-9:30
Marvel's Avengers Assemble 3D (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-1-3:35-4:05-6:45-7:30-10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-4-6:45-7:30-10
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Walk☒re Encore (STC) Stadium Seating Sat 10
The Metropolitan Opera: Siegfried Encore (STC) Stadium Seating Thu 6:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:10

Lower Sackville

Lower Sackville
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza

Chimpanzee (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:35-3-6:50-9:45 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 6:50-9:45
Dark Shadows (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:40-3:35-7-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:25
The Dictator (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:35-9
The Five-Year Engagement (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 6:40-9:20
The Lucky One (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:35-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-4:10-6:35-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 6:35-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:50-9:45
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:45-9:15 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:35 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:30-9:35 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon 6:30-8:45 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Tue 6:30-9:35 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:30-8:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri 6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon 6:20-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Tue 6:20-9:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:20-9:35

Dartmouth

Dartmouth Crossing
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing

Dark Shadows (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-3:30-4-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 12:45-1:15-3:40-4:10-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:10
The Dictator (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:25
The Five-Year Engagement (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:10-3:05-6:15-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:15-9:20
The Hunger Games (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:10-4:30-7:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 7:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun-Tue 1:10-4:30-7:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed 7:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 1:10-4:30
The Lucky One (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:35-3:25-6:25-10:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 1:25-3:50-6:25-10:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 1:25-3:50-6:25-10:35
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7:30-9:30
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12-1:20-3:15-4:35-6:30-8-9:55 Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-7-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-2-4:35-6:30-8-9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Die Walk☒re Encore (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 10
The Metropolitan Opera: Siegfried Encore (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Thu 6:30
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:40
The Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 4:25-7:35-10
Safe (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:40-4:45-7:45-10:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 4:45-7:45-10:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:40-4:45-7:45-10:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 1:50-4:45-10:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Tue 1:50-4:45-7:45-10:35
Think Like a Man (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-4:05-7:10-10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:10-10:05
Wagner's Dream (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon 6:30

Truro

Truro
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook

Chimpanzee (G) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:55-9:50 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:20-6:55-9:50 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 6:55-9:50
Dark Shadows (14) Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:40-9:25 Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 3:30-6:40-9:25 Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:25
The Dictator (STC) Digital, Stadium Seating Wed-Thu 6:55-9:50
The Five-Year Engagement (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:20
The Lucky One (PG) Stadium Seating, Digital Fri 6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Sat-Sun 3:25-6:50-9:10 Stadium Seating, Digital Mon-Thu 6:50-9:10
Marvel's the Avengers (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:45-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 6:45-9 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 6:45-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 6:45-9
Marvel's the Avengers 3D (PG) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:30-9:45 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 3-3:15-6:30-9:45 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
The Pirates! Band of Misfits (G) Stadium Seating Fri 7 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:05-7 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7
Think Like a Man (14) Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 6:35-9:15 Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:10-6:35-9:15 Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:35-9:15



Spektor's new album is full of surprises, even for her



Regina Spektor is more than happy to see her fans put their videos of her live performances online. GETTY

Eclectic repertoire. Singer-songwriter says she forgets some of her old songs as she's busy making new ones

PAT HEALY
Metro News in Boston

Regina Spektor would really appreciate it if you could put your camera phone videos of her performances up online.

Not only do those videos help her remember how the new songs she is working out in concert go, but they also help her retrieve songs that she forgets how to play.

"In Florida I had to go online and go to YouTube and figure out the chords," she says of a song from her 2009 album, Far. "I've written so much stuff since then that I've pushed it out of my head."

And as far as the bootlegs of songs in progress go, she says if not for those phone videos, the songs Patron Saint and Open probably wouldn't have even made it onto her new album, What We Saw from the Cheap Seats.

"I got lucky that it was up there, actually," she says.

It's hard to believe that the singer would forget the latter song, because its repetition of dramatic inhalation during the chorus seems so instantly memorable. But Spektor does a lot of memorable things to make listeners forget that for most of her album and her live performance it's just her voice and her piano. In the new song, The Party she purses her lips together to fake a trumpet part.

"When I wrote it, in my mind it was just a placeholder for a real trumpet," she says. "First of all, it's really fun to do; it's a fun feeling, like even walking around the house being a trumpet. If you bring things from their implied state to a real state, sometimes it becomes better and sometimes, I don't know ... you try to feel what's right for the song."

Spektor says her producer, Mike Elizondo, teased her that when she beat boxes she sounds like a drum machine from the 1980s.

"I do a lot of things, like certain little beats and sounds, because I'm a person with a piano and that's it," she says.

Artist snapshot

Regina Spektor's life has taken some interesting turns.

- **Moscow by the Hudson.** She was born in Moscow (then the capital of the Soviet Union) in 1980, and grew up in the Bronx.
- **Colourful past.** She worked on a Wisconsin butterfly farm while attending college.
- **The show must go on.** Her cellist, Dan Cho, drowned the day before her emotional performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 2010.



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Spiritualized's Pierce uses pain as motivation

NOLAN GAWRON
Metro News

Spiritualized records have a history of being some of the most intricate, complex and laborious undertakings in modern rock. Conceived from the mind of Jason Pierce and translated to tape, Spiritualized's musical journey has included psychedelic freakouts and overwhelming orchestral offerings to gospel soul and epic etherealism. Exploring the sonic peaks and valleys of drug use complete with religious allusions, the band's anxious buildups and triumphant crescendos are like symphonies for substance sympathizers.

Jason Pierce isn't easy to track down, but at the last possible moment, Metro was able to talk to him about the recent release of his seventh album, Sweet Heart Sweet Light.

"I f—ing hate making records," says Pierce, wryly. "I really do. And it just gets harder. Sometimes I think I just make a record to tour because I feel the need to get back on the road. There's something exciting live when you're pushing it and you're within it, but you're not trying to hold onto it."

Pierce says when he started making Sweet Heart, he wanted it to sound like the Beatles.

"Then halfway through I realized I didn't really like the Beatles," he says. "Not that I don't like the Beatles' music, but I decided I wouldn't like to make a record like that."

He says he was looking to produce sounds that defied genre classification.

"I wanted to make something where you didn't have to be hip to a certain style or music, you could just sit and listen to it like a collection of songs that really worked," he says. "When I tried to put that down, it became very hard to make. Anyone trying to make pop music has nowhere to hide. You can't hide in an abstract idea. It doesn't really come with a disclaimer."

While his previous record followed his near-death experience with double pneumonia, Sweet Heart Sweet Light was written during another health scare, one he doesn't like to talk about.



Spiritualized's Jason Pierce

Bernie Finkelstein

Reflections on a life in indie music



BERNARD WEIL/THE TORONTO STAR



SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Bernie Finkelstein sounds relaxed over the phone from his getaway in Prince Edward County. Fruits of having sold his True North Records in late 2007? "A little bit," he says, "although it's more about more free time. I've gone from 21 acts to managing just one, plus I closed the office in Toronto."

Bernie is being asked to talk a lot about himself these days with the publication of his autobiography, True North: A Life in the Music Business, which starts with his time as an air force brat through all his years running one of the most important and most successful independent music labels in this country. True North also had interests in artist management, music publishing and concert promotion.

"I thought I'd better write down these memories so that maybe one day in the future when someone is researching the history of Canadian music, they can find my book on a dusty library shelf somewhere — if those things still exist — and use it to tell the story."

Bernie is concerned about Canadians' short memory when it comes to musical heritage. "Feist was not the first person to have a No. 1 hit on a Canadian independent label. Have we forgotten about what Sarah McLachlan did on Nettwerk? But it's understandable, given that we're overwhelmed with American music history."

True North was founded in 1969, two years before Canadian content regulations went into effect. "You have to understand that back then there was no Canadian music industry.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Kim Kardashian



Kanye West ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

We can't let them finish

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

When Kanye West and Kim Kardashian first stepped out together in March, we weren't too alarmed. Surely, these two would eventually find each other and combine their powers for some sunbathing-on-the-yacht photo ops.

But now, it seems we could be dealing with something worse than staged summer love: the real deal.

"Kim and Kanye are 100 per cent having conversations about marriage," a source tells UsMagazine.com, adding that West had been interested "for a long time."

Another source — let's call this one Worst Source Ever — says Kim's on board: "They've been friends for years. Kim is ready to give it a try now."

Now, before we go all 2012 here, we really should mention that all of this was started by a quick couple lines West rapped in a new Pusha T song: "I saw you in the club in a white dress/Now I want to put you in a white dress."

For all we know, he could just be talking about drugs here. Maybe sex. Possibly both. People who still go outside after 9 p.m. — tell us it will all be OK!

Joe Jonas: Fax me

Joe Jonas seems like a nice young man. Nice enough that we even kind of buy that he's doing Pepsi's Live for Now campaign for something other than the money.

"It's a cool way to be able to go to this platform and be able to check out different pop culture things that are going on," he told us this week while on a promotion tour in New York.

But, moving on, let's talk underwear and flirty faxes.

On his forward fans

"The boldest is probably throwing articles of underwear on stage. That has happened. And then I've had a fan once ask me to punch them, which I thought was crazy, and they were like, well because then, you know, I'll always remember it. I'm like, you know what, I really don't wanna do that. That was a female fan. I didn't hit her."

On getting a girl's attention

"I faxed somebody once. I was asking somebody on a date. I met her at a store and I sent her a fax that said, hey would you like to go out with me, here's my number. She faxed me back."

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY MEREDITH ENGEL

Anna Faris is preggers and already wants more?

Anna Faris and Chris Pratt are expecting their first child, according to People magazine.

The couple, who met on the set of Take Me Home Tonight and tied the knot in 2009, have been thinking about kids for a while — and this baby could be just the beginning, to hear Faris tell it.

"Chris wants a big family," Faris told E! News last year. "I would love to have eight. I don't think I could handle it, though."



Anna Faris and Chris Pratt

Is One Direction going in all different directions?

After their lightning-fast rise to fame, the boys of One Direction are already facing breakup rumors, with member Harry Styles' latest travel itinerary suggesting he's on the lookout for a solo career, according to the Daily Star.

"(Harry's) been offered a big solo project so he flew out to Los Angeles without the rest of the boy band," a source says.

"He's been in America filming something. It may have been an advert or a film — I can't say exactly what — but it's worth a lot of money."

But a rep for the boy band is quick to quash the rumors, saying the trip wasn't for business at all.

"This report is false. Harry was on vacation in L.A.," their rep tells Hollyscoop.

Twitter



@CraigyFerg
Sorry I haven't tweeted for a while - there was a new Angry Birds app.



@kirstiealley
coming out of my cocoon today....hope new wings take me where I want to go...they always have..;)



@ActuallyNPH
Yet another My Life Is Random moments: Oprah came over to our house today. I made her pizza.



@SarahKSilverman
I'm finding it hard to get sympathy with my I-pulled-a-muscle-on-a-zip-line story.

Brit to judge X Factor: Source

The deal is done: Britney Spears is reportedly joining the X Factor as a judge, joining executive producer Simon Cowell and L.A. Reid on the panel, according to E! News.

"There's been a lot of back and forth over the past few weeks as they negotiated the small details, but she's on," a source says. "It's all completed and Britney is beyond excited."

Spears will reportedly earn $15 million for her work on the show's second season, though it isn't clear if the deal extends beyond that. The deal now leaves one judge's chair empty on the singing competition's panel, with Miley Cyrus a rumoured front-runner for the spot. But Hollywood Life reports that the former Hannah Montana star is being considered to replace host Steve Jones instead.





3

LIFE

Trends

Packaged Cold Cuts

Food companies looking to capitalize on consumers' increasingly sophisticated tastes are carving out new directions in lunch meat with upscale options that are pre-sliced, prepackaged. Some prepackaged lunch meats now come in thicker slices, mirroring the choice at a traditional deli. Herbs and spices also are showing up, boosting flavour and appeal. Meanwhile, producers have been cutting salt and removing artificial ingredients .

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Julia Child taught Americans to love food, and women to take pride in making it

Liquid Assets

An easy-like-Sunday-morning sipper



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
peterrockwell@eastlink.ca

A reader sent me an e-mail last week asking if I could recommend a wine to go with breakfast in bed.

While he was looking to impress his wife on their upcoming anniversary, with Mother's Day this weekend I'm betting many of you guys out there will also be looking to score some bonus points Sunday morning.

Eclectic is the best way to describe a breakfast menu. The fun part is that any early morning tipple should be light, fresh and very easy-drinking — the same flavour profile that loves unusual eats. Though the selection varies across the country, a white wine made with the moscato grape is a perfect early morning sipper. Slightly sweet and low in alcohol, they're an a.m. friendly wine style gaining a solid following during the day as well.

I think sparkling when it comes to breakfast (or brunch) is best. Forget the orange juice and pick one with the union of fruit and wine already built in. Chile's Fresita ($12.95 - $15.99) is infused with the essence of real strawberries. The result is a berry bomb that explodes in the mouth and will add plenty of refreshment to your Mother's Day.

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Classic treat will make mom smile on her day

Emily's Mom's Quick Cinnamon Buns.
Metro's food columnist shares a special treat from her childhood



DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

With Mother's Day this Sunday, I've been thinking about my mom. My thoughts led me to a treat my mother used to make on the weekends or even during the week after dinner.

In an old notebook dating back to my high school days, I found the recipe for Mom's Cinnamon Buns.

These biscuit style cinnamon buns are perfect to enjoy with a cup of tea or coffee with mom or any special person on any day you want to sit back and chat about a memory or two.

They're best served warmed out of the oven or reheated in the microwave before serving.

Ingredients

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter
- ½ cup (125 mL) packed brown sugar

Dough

- 2 cups (500 mL) all purpose flour
- 4 tsp (20 mL) baking powder
- ¼ tsp (1 mL) salt
- ½ cup (125 mL) lard or shortening
- 2/3 cup (150 mL) milk

Filling

- ½ cup (125 mL) butter, very soft but not melted
- ½ cup (125 mL) packed brown sugar
- 2 tsp (10 mL) ground cinnamon

1. In saucepan, melt butter and sugar, whisking over medium heat until smooth and combined. Pour into lightly sprayed 8 inch (2 L) baking dish; spread evenly across bottom; set aside.

2. Dough: In bowl, stir flour, baking powder and salt. Cut lard into flour using fingers until mix is crumbly looking. Drizzle in milk and stir using fork to combine. Bring dough together and knead gently on lightly floured surface to make smooth dough. Roll out dough on floured surface to make a 14-inch (35 cm) square.

3. Filling: In bowl, stir butter, sugar and cinnamon until very smooth. Spread evenly all over dough right to the edges. Roll up dough, jelly-roll style and pinch seam along edge. Cut log into 9 equal pieces and place into prepared baking dish.

4. Bake in centre of a 400 F (200 C) oven 25 mins or until golden brown and sauce is bubbly. Let stand for three minutes before turning out onto platter.

EMILY RICHARDS IS A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA



This recipe makes nine buns. EMILY RICHARDS



Wonton wrappers: The secret to pork ravioli



Pork Ravioli

This recipe serves eight. THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

1. Tomato Sauce: In a saucepan, stir together purée and water. Add onion, garlic, parsley, oregano and hot pepper flakes. Bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for about 30 minutes or until slightly thickened; set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine pork, onion and garlic. Add pepper, cheese and parsley and stir until well distributed.

3. Place 15 ml (1 tbsp) of the pork mixture onto a wonton wrapper. Brush edges with water and top with another wonton wrapper. Push down around pork filling to seal and place on parchment paper-lined baking sheet.

4. Repeat with remaining ingredients to make about 28 ravioli. (Make ahead: Ravioli can be frozen at this point in single layer. Once frozen, remove from baking sheet and store in an airtight container or resealable bag for up to 2 months.)

5. In a large pot of water, boil ravioli for about 5 minutes or until pork is no longer pink inside. Using slotted spoon, scoop out onto platter and ladle sauce over top. Toss gently to serve.

Ingredients

- 500 g (1 lb) lean ground pork
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) finely diced roasted red pepper
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) chopped fresh parsley
- 1 pkg (400 g) wonton wrappers

Tomato Sauce:

- 1 bottle (700 ml) tomato purée (passata)
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) water
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 sprigs fresh parsley
- 5 ml (1 tsp) dried oregano leaves
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) hot pepper flakes

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ONTARIO PORK/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS (PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND TV CELEBRITY CHEF. FOR MORE, VISIT, EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Barley No Stir Risotto.
Get a creamy dish without the stirring



1. In saucepan, heat oil over medium-high heat and cook mushrooms, onion, garlic and Italian seasoning, stirring for 15 mins. or until no liquid remains. Stir in barley to coat.

2. Add broth and sun-dried tomatoes and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low; cover and simmer 20 mins. Uncover and cook 20 mins or until barley is tender but firm. Stir in cream cheese until melted and creamy; cover and let stand 5 mins before serving.

EMILY RICHARDS, PH EC.
FOR HEART AND STROKE FOUNDATION

Ingredients

- 10 mL (2 tsp) olive oil
- 1 pkg (227 g (8 oz) mushrooms, sliced
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 5 mL (1 tsp) dried Italian seasoning
- 250 mL (1 cup) pot barley
- 1 L (4 cups) sodium reduced chicken broth
- 125 mL (1/2 cup) sun dried tomatoes, chopped
- 50 mL (1/4 cup) light herbed cream cheese

Anchovy oil pizza 101: Keep it simple



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This recipe keeps the pizza simple in order to let the anchovy oil really shine. But if you prefer a heavy-duty pizza, by all means pile on the toppings. Don't want to make your own flatbread? Use the same anchovy oil and toppings on a ball of pizza dough.

1. Heat oven to 500 F. Spray 2 baking sheets with olive oil cooking spray.

2. In food processor, combine flour and salt, then pulse to combine. With processor running, add 1 tbsp of olive oil, then slowly drizzle in the water until the dough forms a tacky, but not wet ball. If the dough is too dry, add water 1 teaspoon at a time and pulse until it holds together easily when squeezed.

Ingredients

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1/4 cup warm water
- 2 oil-packed anchovy fillets
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 2 cups baby spinach
- 1 cup sliced white button mushrooms
- 2 cups shredded fontina or other semi-soft cheese

3. Transfer dough to lightly floured counter. Divide dough into 4 equal pieces. Using a floured rolling pin, roll each piece to the size of a large dinner plate. Place 2 flatbreads on each baking sheet and set aside.

4. In a small bowl, combine the remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil, the anchovies, garlic and red pepper flakes. Mash with a fork until chunky smooth.

5. Use a pastry brush to coat each flatbread with the anchovy-oil paste, then top each with a quarter each of the spinach and mushrooms.

6. Finish each pizza with 1/2 cup of cheese. Bake for 10 minutes, or until lightly browned at the edges and the cheese is melted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







4

SPORTS

CIS football

Four Huskies in East-West Bowl

Four members of the Saint Mary's Huskies will take to the field at TD Waterhouse Stadium in London, Ont., for Canadian Interuniversity Sport football's East-West Bowl on Saturday. Kicker Brett Lauther, offensive lineman Matthew Albright, linebacker Kyle Norris and defensive back Neil King are all suiting up for Team East, which has won three of the past four bowl games. The event is a showcase of prospects for the 2013 CFL draft. Kickoff is 2 p.m. METRO

On the web

There was a point in Hayley Wickenheiser's life when she was consumed by hockey. But ever since Canada's all-time scoring leader adopted Noah, the son of her boyfriend 12 years ago, she says she became cured of "the disease of me." Scan the code for the story.

Dunbrack eyes provincial title and national gold

Women's soccer. EastLink Premiership season gets underway next Friday



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

For Halifax Dunbrack, it's never too early to start planning for October.

Although the annual Canadian women's soccer championship is still more than five months away, the three-time defending EastLink Premiership champs have assembled their summer roster with an eye toward winning their second national gold medal in three years.

They've received a firm full-season commitment through Thanksgiving weekend from 19 players after winning national bronze last fall with a thin 13-player roster.

"One of the things I said last year coming back from nationals was that I wouldn't go to nationals again with only 13 players," said Dunbrack head coach Gary Carter. "You're playing all those high-calibre games in rapid succession. The girls were taking ice baths between games.

"They played fantastic and I told them after, with one, maybe two more players, we could have repeated as gold medallists."

Dunbrack, of course, won the Jubilee Trophy in 2010 and, along with bronze in 2009, has earned three straight national medals.

All-star keeper Liz Cook has moved away to British Columbia and will be replaced by Elissa McCarron. Julia Burton, Melissa Gaudet and Maggie Malone — players with NCAA commitments — have also moved on.

But former Premiership MVP Teresa Morrison returns along with three-time reigning Golden Boot Award-winner Leanne Huck and all-stars Jeanette Huck, Hannah Abenheimer and Rica Santilli. Another all-star, Victoria Parkinson, has joined Dunbrack from Dartmouth United.

Carter said he hopes the team can win a fourth provincial crown and take another run at national gold.

"Toward the end of last year, we started playing some good football, moving the ball around, and we hope to continue that and maybe get a little bit better defensively in order to win the ball back quicker," Carter said. "That's something we lacked a little bit at nationals."

The Premiership season gets underway on Friday, with Dunbrack taking on Halifax County at Mainland Common at 9:10 p.m.

Men's season

- Defending champion Suburban FC kicks off the EastLink Premiership men's season next Wednesday.
- Suburban, which knocked off Halifax City in last year's final, takes on South Shore at Soccer Nova Scotia's indoor facility at 8 p.m.
- This year's men's league features eight teams.



Halifax Dunbrack striker Leanne Huck has scored 44 times in her past 43 regular-season games en route to three straight Golden Boot Awards. She leads her team into another EastLink Premiership season next week. RYAN TAPLIN/METRO FILE

Sailing. Bedford's Wilton to battle in England for spot in the Olympics

Bedford's Brendan Wilton will hit the water in England on Friday to begin his quest for a spot at the Summer Olympic Games.

The 23-year-old sailor is competing at the Finn Gold Cup world championship in Falmouth, England, starting Friday.

If he is the top Canadian finisher, he'll punch his ticket to London.

Wilton is one of five sailors vying for Canada's Olympic Finn spot. Ontario's Chris Cook, Greg Douglas and Rob Hemming and Quebec's Martin Robitaille are the others.

Cook posted the best finish of the five at the Princess Sofia Regatta in Mallorca, Spain, in April, winning bronze. Wilton was the fourth Canadian at 35th behind Cook, Douglas (18th) and Robitaille (33rd).

The weeklong event concludes next Friday.

Wilton, who sails out of the Royal Nova Scotia Yacht Squadron, switched to the Finn class from the Laser class in 2009.

MATTHEW WUEST/METRO

Basketball

Colley joins development team

Saint Mary's Huskies guard Justine Colley has joined Canada's women's basketball development team in Toronto after a tryout with the national team in Abbotsford, B.C.

The East Preston native was among 25 players invited to try out for the national team, which is preparing for a three-game exhibition tournament against China from March 16 to 18.

The development squad is comprised of the country's top women's players not on the national team.

METRO

QMJHL final. Sea Dogs repeat as champions

The Saint John Sea Dogs are the President's Cup champions for the second straight year.

The Sea Dogs defeated the hometown Rimouski Oceanic 8-0 on Thursday in Game 4 of the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's championship series.

Saint John swept the best-of-seven series and will defend its Memorial Cup championship in Shawinigan, Que.

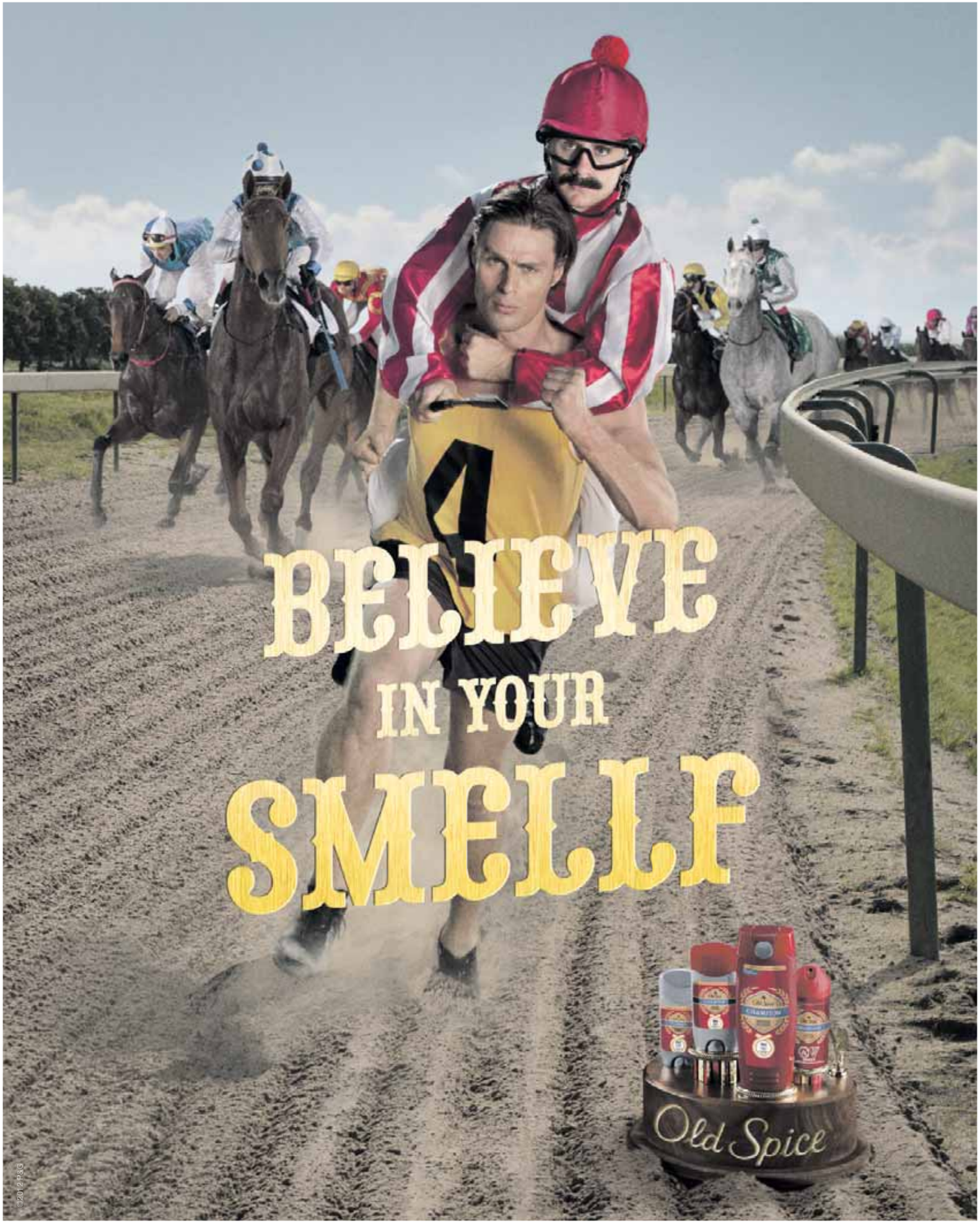
Stanislav Galiev scored a hat trick and added two assists for the Sea Dogs, who led 5-0 after the first period and 6-0 through 40 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local ties

Four players with local connections play for the Sea Dogs:

- Left-winger Stephen MacAulay, Cole Harbour.
- Defenceman Ian Saab, Halifax.
- Right-winger Devon Oliver-Dares, Cole Harbour.
- Ex-Mooseheads goaltender Mathieu Corbeil.


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Canada ready to step up

IIHF. Date with Finland sure to raise stakes after a quiet start

Beware of the sleeping giant.

Canada's collection of NHL stars might never have been treated to more indifference at the IIHF World Hockey Championship than in the last week at Hartwall Arena, where locals have packed the building for Finland games and virtually ignored everything else.

The team hasn't even enjoyed its normal role as anointed favourite of foreign reporters. That group seems far less interested in tracking Canadian players than normal, making for an unusually quiet start to a tournament that should have the volume turned up on it Friday night with a game against the host country.

"Maybe it's a good thing we're playing Finland," said Canadian coach Brent Sutter. "Obviously, it's a huge game. You're playing the team that's hosting the tournament and you know it's going to be a full house in here. We have to rise to the occasion and step up."

Canada is partly responsible for its current underdog label. After making quarter-final exits at the last two tournaments and falling to fifth in the world rankings, the team has yet to turn in a statement performance in Helsinki.

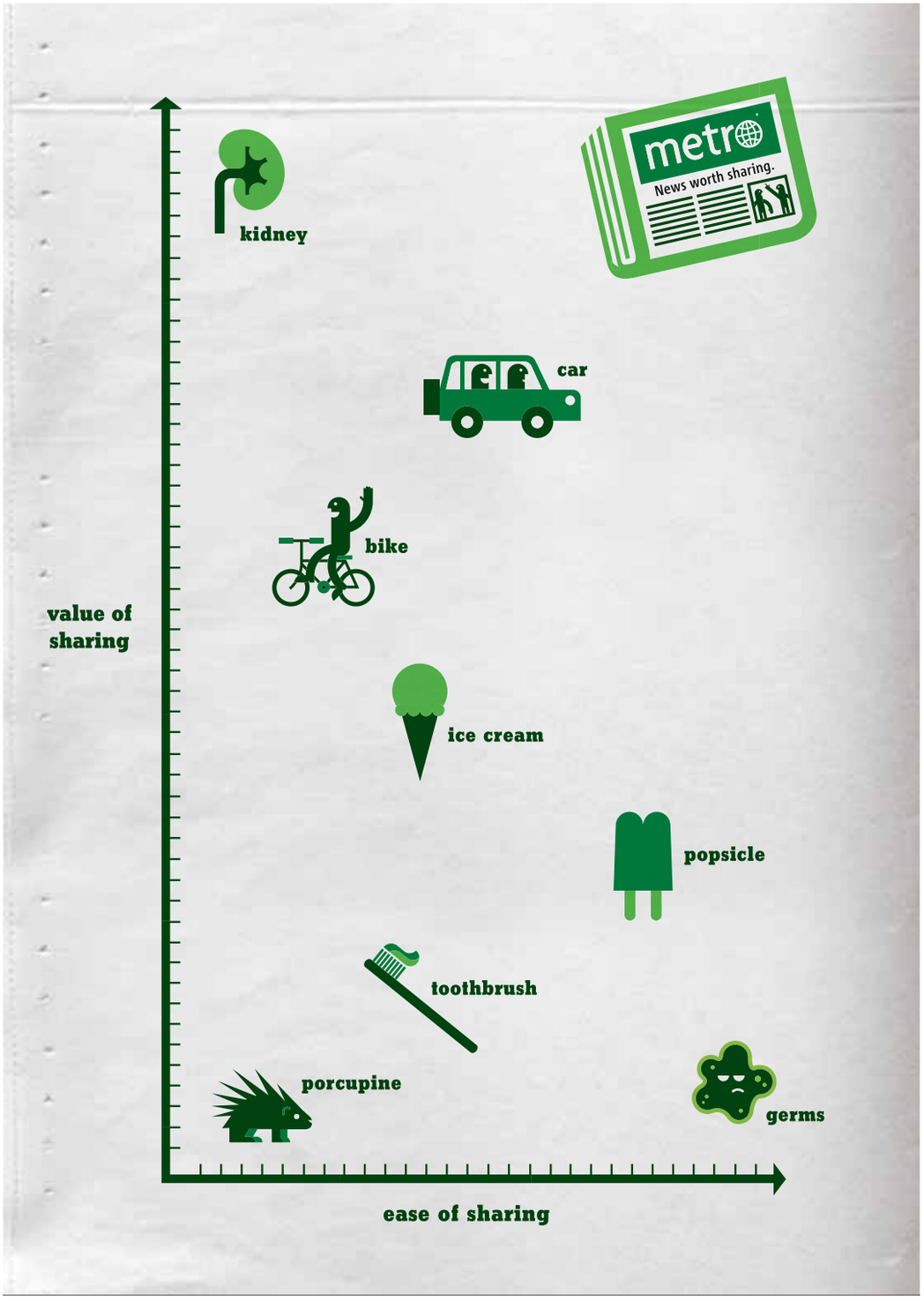
So far, it beat France handily, edged Slovakia and Switzerland by a goal, and lost an entertaining back-and-forth overtime game to the United States.

A game against Finland at this stage of the world championship offers the chance to prove that everything is heading in the right direction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Canada's Ryan Nugent-Hopkins skates past Switzerland's Morris Trachsler in Helsinki Wednesday. MARTTI KAINULAINEN/LEHTIKUVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



All bets are off for Game 7 back on Broadway

Crunch the numbers, ride the waves of momentum, and then try to guess if the Washington Capitals or New York Rangers will survive another Game 7 and move on to the Eastern Conference finals.

Hockey analysts will make very compelling arguments — and leave anyone who is listening believing that both teams can't lose the win-or-go-home matchup on Saturday night at Madison Square Garden.

Ah yes, Madison Square Garden, the famed arena in which the host Rangers are 4-0 in Game 7s. It is also the place where the Rangers pulled out a Game 5 win in this series by scoring a power-play goal with 7.6 seconds left in regulation, and then another less than two minutes into overtime, turning what appeared to be a sure loss into one of the most electrifying victories in club history.

You know, the tide-turning win that the Capitals would never be able to bounce back from — even though they were heading home for Game 6. It didn't quite work out that way, and now it's the Rangers who will fight to make sure there is no carry-over in the other direction for Game 7.

"We can't let it," Rangers captain Ryan Callahan said. "We have to put this one behind us. We have to go in Saturday ready to play."

Cup drought

- The Rangers, eliminated from the playoffs by Washington in two of the previous three seasons, haven't been to the conference finals since 1997.
- The Capitals have never won it all.

Whoever prevails will face the well-rested New Jersey Devils with a trip to the Stanley Cup finals on the line.

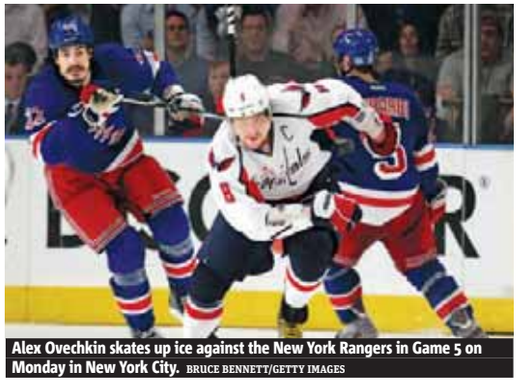
"You're going to have your ups and downs, especially in the playoffs," Capitals coach Dale Hunter said. "We have a lot of character in that room."

Alex Ovechkin has been a symbol of that. He has dealt with limited ice time in the playoffs, but hasn't sulked.

He had no shots in Game 5. Then just 1:28 into the Capitals' last stand at home Wednesday night, Ovechkin zipped a shot over goalie Henrik Lundqvist's suddenly susceptible glove to give Washington a power-play goal and a lead it would never give up in a 2-1 win that saved the season at least for two more days.

"One team has pushed, and the other team has pushed back," Capitals forward Brooks Laich said Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Alex Ovechkin skates up ice against the New York Rangers in Game 5 on Monday in New York City. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

76ers deliver coup de grace

NBA. Philadelphia wins series over injury-stricken Chicago

Andre Iguodala and Evan Turner hopped on the scorer's table and played to the crowd as the catchy 76ers theme song blared in the arena.

Eight years of going home empty was over. The Sixers were ready for a long-overdue post-season celebration.

Iguodala made the go-ahead free throws with 2.2 seconds left and Philadelphia rallied for a 79-78 victory over the top-seeded Chicago Bulls in Game 6 on Thursday night, advancing to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs for the first time since 2003.

The 76ers will face Boston, which beat Atlanta in six games, in the conference semifinals.

Omar Asik missed two free throws for the Bulls with seven seconds left that would have sealed the win. Iguodala grabbed the second miss, sprinted the length of the court, and was fouled by Asik on the driving layup. He made both free throws and 20,362 fans went absolutely wild.

The Sixers are the fifth No. 8 seed to win a first-round series against a No. 1 seed.

The Bulls lost star guard Derrick Rose to a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee late in their series-opening victory. Centre Joakim Noah was on the bench Thursday but failed to play in his third straight game with a sprained left ankle.

Without their stars, the Bulls found it tough to gut one out against the Sixers.

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Elton Brand shoots over Carlos Boozer Thursday in Philadelphia.

DREW HALLOWELL/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Alvarez strong again for Blue Jays

Henderson Alvarez pitched seven strong innings to win his third straight start for the Toronto Blue Jays, 6-2 over the Minnesota Twins on Thursday night.

Alvarez (3-2) stretched his scoreless streak to 17 innings before second baseman Kelly Johnson's throwing error allowed the Twins to score in the third. He allowed seven hits and three walks while striking out two, and one of the runs was unearned.

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Trades

Trades

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WANTED **AREA STIMULATION PROGRAM:** 7 homes in Nova Scotia market area will be given the opportunity of having the Interlock® Roofing System installed on their home at substantial savings in return for helping us create market awareness for the purpose of neighborhood product visibility.Interlock Roofing Systems are of interest to homeowners across North America who want a durable and beautiful roofing solution. Interlock needs to quickly find new areas to feature the Interlock Roofing System and is prepared to offer substantial savings to the next 7 homeowners that qualify. Orders will be discounted on a first come first served basis. Interlock Roofing Systems are enviromentally safe, come in many styles and colors, and are backed by a **Lifetime Limited Warranty,** 50 Year Transferable Non-ProRated.Maritime Permanent Roofing Ltd. is one of Nova Scotia's largest installers of metal roofing systems. Tens of thousands of satisfied homeowners across North America will never re-roof again with Interlock Roofing System. 100% Financing Available. Please call immediatley if you are thinking of re-roofing, as this is a limited time offer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Events

Meow Movers
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Admission: $1.00
10am-2pm
Saturday May 12th 2012

Bedford Legion, 1772 Bedford Hwy
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Limit 2 per week • Size 1.535" X .542"
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0.5 hp CGE Shallow Well Jet Pump with switch and pressure tank
$75.00
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4000 Post Cards Early Collection
$3 each or Best offer for the lot
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Canarm 18 inch heavy duty garage shed exhaust fan. 1/3 HP, 115 volt, 1625 RPM, 3 speed switch. $100
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•Manfrotto (background stand with carrying case) $150 •Manfrotto light stand with carrying case. $100
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Safety First Infant Car Seat
Rear facing. Comes with base and matching stroller. **$85 OBO**
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Apt size upright freezer
4.5 cubit ft, white, good condition
$250 OBO
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2 - 5 piece setting of Royal Albert Christmans Yuletide. Never used
$375
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BOOKS: Prince Charles $20.00
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Deluxe Blue/Silver doll carriage with bedding
Comes from non-smoking home
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LARGE entertainment center (Wood)
Make an offer
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New Exercise Bike
$150
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•Stove & Fan & Dishwasher! White In Good Condition $139.99 for all
• I-Phone 4S Brand New in Box $559.99
902-489-0009

32 piece setting
Royal Albert - Mayflower design
$400.00
902-444-0701

BOOKS: ROYAL FAMILY ALBUM $40.00 EDWARD THE UN-CROWNED KING $15
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Dining table and 4 chairs plus 1 Captian's chair. Extendable leaf. Moving soon and needs to be gone.
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metro



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Rental incentives available!

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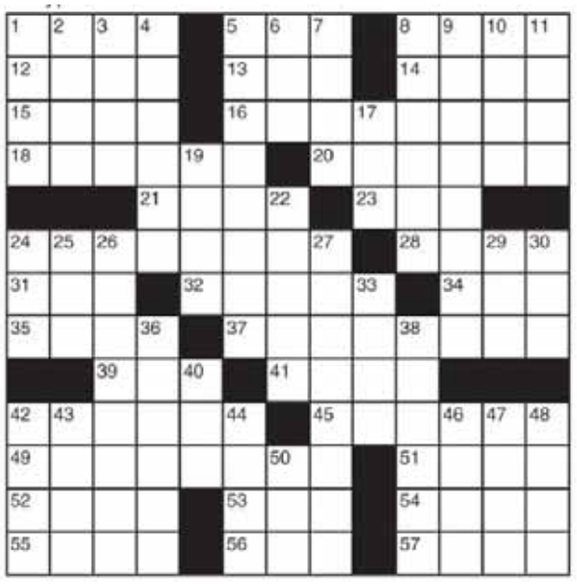
Crossword

Across

1 Mayflower, for one
5 Craze
8 Grand poetry
12 Singer Vikki
13 Conceit
14 Create
15 Lotion additive
16 "Moby-Dick" author
18 Art of growing dwarfed plants
20 Assistant who does errands
21 Wee
23 Before
24 Tunes
28 Engrave
31 Favorable vote
32 Very, in music
34 Pirouette pivot
35 Ties up the phone
37 Rapid decline
39 — -tzu
41 Of a specified type
42 Quantity
45 "Merci"
49 "The Velvet Fog"
51 Nevada city
52 "Survivor" setting
53 Rowing tool
54 Werewolf's inspiration
55 "— of Our Lives"
56 Moines lead-in
57 Picnic invaders

Down

1 Wound cover
2 Head light?
3 Press
4 "Allakazam!"
5 NOW doctrine
6 Candle count
7 Mini mannequin?
8 One with a new homeland
9 South Carolina symbol
10 Sooner St.
11 Witnessed
17 Churchill's gesture
19 Verdi opera
22 Sycophants' replies
24 Gasoline ratio (Abbr.)
25 Historic time
26 Pine variety
27 Odists, in a way
29 Farm female
30 Farm female
33 Pruritus
36 Fries lightly
38 Jenna Elfman TV role
40 Lennon's lady
42 Surrounded by
43 Small plateau
44 Walked (on)
46 Night glower
47 Entanglement
48 Half the offspring
50 West of Hollywood



Sudoku

9		7				1		6
	2		4		5		8	
3								9
		2	9		7	8		
	9						7	
		1	3		8	6		
8								1
	5		1		4		3	
7		4				2		5

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	4	7	9	8	1	6	2	5
1	5	2	7	6	4	3	8	9
8	9	6	2	3	5	1	7	4
6	7	3	4	1	2	9	5	8
9	8	4	6	5	7	2	3	1
2	1	5	3	9	8	7	4	6
5	6	9	8	2	3	4	1	7
7	2	8	1	4	9	5	6	3
4	3	1	5	7	6	8	9	2

Yesterday's Crossword



Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

EW D KEQZ WHSSJU JUBHN D ZVIH QJVBLKX HRLDLH, E IVHRR XJV YEIZL RDX ZH ER UHSS-YDBJKHN.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE HE CONTINUALLY EYEBALLS PEOPLE RUDELY, HE HAS EARNED THE NICKNAME "STARE MASTER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 15°/4° Partly cloudy
Saturday 12°/5° Variable
Your #1 weather forecast now available in HD.
Check your local listings for details. HD
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Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Identify where savings can be made. Don't add to your financial problems by buying things you don't need.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. It may annoy you that someone needs convincing that you care for them. Make the effort. Say something nice. You'll be rewarded this weekend.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Your imagination will get a boost today but watch out it doesn't go too far and you start imagining things that are never going to happen.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You may have high expectations of yourself. You're going places, but keep your feet on the ground.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Common sense tells you to steer clear of other people's disputes, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Do what you feel like doing today, not what other people say you should. You have an obligation to help, but you've done more than your share.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Someone thinks they can part you from your hard-earned cash by pretending they are in distress and only you can help them.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. There are many people who expect something for nothing. They're unlikely to get it from you today.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You don't have to prove anything to anyone, not today nor any other day. Do what you feel is right.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. Don't let others see that you are desperate to possess something or they will push up the price.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. Your ambitions are likely to clash with your personal commitments today — and it is your ambitions that must be favoured.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You won't be much in the mood for work today. Just be careful you don't overdo it. Travelling and socializing can be exhausting! SALLY BROMPTON



Caption Contest

"Here is your nose for your clown suit, Mr. Gulliver, sir."
Jerome P.
TAMMY LJUNGBLAD, KANSAS CITY STAR, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!



You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.







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GLS model shown

2012 ACCENT

2012 AJAC BEST NEW SMALL CAR (UNDER $21K)

AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
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AJAC's Best new small car under $21K

OWN IT **$86**[†] BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0.9%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | SAVE 20¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | ACCENT 5DR L 6-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. | HIGHWAY **4.9**L/100 KM **58** MPG[▼]



Limited model shown

2012 CANADIAN AND NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR
2013 ELANTRA SEDAN

AUTOMOBILE JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
www.ajac.ca

NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

OWN IT **$103**[†] BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **1.9%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | SAVE 20¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | ELANTRA L 6-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. | HIGHWAY **4.9**L/100 KM **58** MPG[▼]

OWN IT **$95**[†] BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR **96** MONTHS | SAVE 20¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | ELANTRA TOURING GL 5-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. | HIGHWAY **6.4**L/100 KM **44** MPG[▼]



GLS model shown

2012 ELANTRA TOURING GL

INCLUDES: • Air Conditioning with Glove Box Cooler • Heated Front Seats & Mirrors • 6 Airbags w/ Front Active Head Restraints • Cruise Control • Remote Keyless Entry • Power Windows, Doors, Locks & Mirrors

BONUS 7 YEAR WARRANTY 120,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY[▼]

OWN IT **$134**[†] BI-WEEKLY PAYMENT | WITH **0%** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS | SAVE 20¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω] | AND **$0** DOWN PAYMENT | SONATA GL 6-SPEED. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED. | HIGHWAY **5.7**L/100 KM **50** MPG[▼]



Limited model shown

2012 SONATA

Most fuel-efficient full-size car[▲]

2012 SANTA FE

Powerful & efficient – the true definition of a cross-over

INCLUDES $5,764 FACTORY TO DEALER CREDIT[‡]

HIGHWAY **7.7**L/100 KM **37** MPG[▼]

WAS ~~$25,759~~ NOW **$19,995**[♦] and SAVE 40¢/L UNTIL 2013[Ω]

SANTA FE GL 2.4L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY & DESTINATION INCLUDED.

BONUS 7 YEAR WARRANTY 120,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY[▼]



Limited model shown

5 YEAR WARRANTY 100,000 KM COMPREHENSIVE LIMITED WARRANTY[▼]

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

HyundaiCanada.com

Atlantic HYUNDAI Dealers

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